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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk August 21, 2011 **EAST KENT EDITION** Issue no 465

Commuters face agony of massive hike in fares

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

RAIL commuters still reeling from a staggering price hike in fares earlier this year are now facing another big rise of up to 13 per cent.

It has sparked an angry reaction across Kent, with campaigners and politicians condemning the "unacceptable" increases seen year on year.

In January, commuters saw an average price hike of 7.8 per cent on regulated fares, pushing the cost of a season ticket to London above £4,000.

But long-suffering train passengers are in for another hit after inflation was set for next year at five per cent.

It means under the Government fare-setting formula of Retail Price Index (RPI) plus three per cent, train operators can up prices by eight per cent from January, 2012.

More worryingly for regular rail users, flexibility is given to train firms to raise fares by an additional five per cent on some routes – as long as the average across the area does not exceed the RPI plus three per cent – meaning some commuters face paying up to 13 per cent more.

For commuters in Ramsgate this could be as much as £568 on a mainline season ticket to the capital, pushing the price up to almost £5,000, and on the high-speed line a rise of £681 up to almost £6,000.

In Ashford, mainline tickets could rise by £562 to £4,890 and on high-speed trains from £674 to £5,866.

Kent County Council cabinet member for environment, highways and waste Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said he was concerned about the potential rise.

"It is unacceptable to expect Kent's rail commuters to pay up to 13 per cent on top of this year's very large fare increases," he said.

"In many cases commuters are now paying out more in rail fares than they are in mortgage repayments.

"When we met Theresa Villiers, the minister of state for transport, earlier this year, we pressed for a suspension of

Continued on page 2

HIGH-PRICE TRAVEL: Rail commuters could face fare rises of up to 13 per cent

EDUCATION

Top marks in A-level exams

THIS year's A-level students have enjoyed a bumper set of top grades after beating the county's exam performance last year.

It is believed the good marks are partly a result of students desperately trying to secure university places before degree fees rocket next year. **PAGE 5**

CRIME

Huge growth in drug farms

THE number of cannabis farms raided by the police has doubled in the space of just a year.

The shock figures came as a businessman was jailed this week for 10 years.

Officers uncovered three cannabis factories and a plot to sell drugs with a street value of £2 million. **PAGE 8**

SPORT

Olympic test excites House

FORMER national road racing champion Kristian House was part of the field testing the Olympic cycling preparations last weekend.

The experienced rider from Canterbury won the King of the Mountains jersey and was thrilled as 250,000 spectators lined the course. **PAGE 84**

Temperature falling as new air cooling system is installed at Ollie's Children's Indoor Play Centre at Hartsdown Leisure Centre, Margate.

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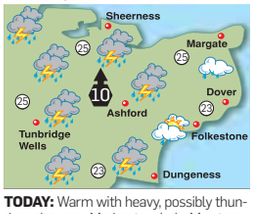

TODAY: Warm with heavy, possibly thundery showers. Moderate winds. Max temp 23-26C (73-79F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells. Min temp 13-16C (55-61F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	03.45	5.7	16.00	5.8
Margate	04.53	4.2	17.16	4.3
St Mary's	09.39	4.6	22.03	4.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 23C	Min 12C
Tuesday	Max 21C	Min 12C
Wednesday	Max 21C	Min 11C
Thursday	Max 21C	Min 12C
Friday	Max 20C	Min 11C
Saturday	Max 19C	Min 11C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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TRAVEL

Fears of far-reaching impact from train fare price rises

Continued from front page

the 'escalator' part of the fares formula, which allows rail companies to increase or decrease fares by up to five per cent on top of the general RPI plus three per cent increase.

"Unfortunately she was unable to meet our request and so it seems that Kent's rail passengers will have to pay these very high levels of fares again from next January.

"We shall continue to stand up for Kent's rail passengers through our Rail Action Plan for Kent, arguing for better services and lower percentage fare increases in the next franchise. It is very clear that Kent's rail commuters are not being treated fairly."

Rail watchdog Passenger Focus also slammed the potential rise. Director David Sidebottom said while having some fares regulated was in passengers' interests, the way train companies were allowed to set fares on individual routes was "deeply unfair".

"Some passengers, who may have seen no investment or improvements, can get hit year after year," he said.

"Passenger Focus will forcefully advocate change to this system in the Government's forthcoming fares review."

Medway's Labour group also expressed dismay at the possible 13 per cent rise and the potential impact it could have on the economy.

Deputy leader Cllr Vince Maple said: "If people are deterred from coming to Medway – either from moving here to commute or simply to visit as tourists – this will have a negative impact upon the local economy.

"At a time of economic uncertainty and potential job losses in both the public and private sectors this is very bad news."

A Southeastern spokeswoman said fare increases were always unpopular, but stressed it was a Government decision.

"The cost of season ticket fares is directly regulated by the Government. It's their stated policy that passengers should pay more towards the cost of their journey and taxpayers contribute less," she said. "So subsidy paid to Southeastern by the Department for Transport to operate rail services in this area decreases in line with passengers' fares increasing."

She added that the RPI plus three per cent was the average increase, with some regulated fares higher and others lower.

She stated that no fare would increase by more than 13 per cent.

Fares from individual stations will be confirmed by train companies in November.

HERITAGE

TV star Michael Palin to speak at festival of art and architecture

By Mathew Beech
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MONTY Python star Michael Palin is coming to Sheerness to help people celebrate the Isle of Sheppey's architectural heritage.

The TV presenter is one of a number of headline speakers who will be talking about their travels and the history of the area, at a three-day festival.

Will Palin, the son of the comedy actor-turned-documentary-maker, has been the driving force behind the Promenade festival of art and architecture.

The event runs from Friday to Sunday, September 9-11, and Will Palin, who has helped to save 11 historic buildings in Sheerness Dockyard, has invited historian Dan Cruickshank, conservation specialist Ptolemy Dean, the director of London's Garden Museum Christopher Woodward, and Financial Times architecture and design critic Edwin Heathcote, to talk.

These talks will form the centre of a wider community programme of heritage-inspired performances, talks, hands-on activities, exhibitions and events exploring the history of Sheerness, including its place as a popular seaside resort and a naval port.

The weekend's festivities will also see the premiere of Paradiso, an open-air dance performance choreographed by Mayuri Boonham with dance company Akademi.

Project co-ordinator Allison Young said: "We are keen to raise the profile of the heritage of the island and show what it has to offer.

"We want to celebrate the history of the Isle of Sheppey and it is a chance for local people to show what they have done because there are an enormous amount of people here who are interested in their heritage.

"There are a lot of people not very far away who don't think of heritage when the think of Sheppey and Sheerness.

"They think of caravans and holiday homes, but it is a hidden gem."

Michael Palin will be talking to audiences on Sunday, September 11, at 12.30pm at the Sheppey Little Theatre.

If successful, Promenade festival will look to expand in the coming years.

Mrs Young said: "This year is the first year and it is still on a small scale, although we never expected to have more than 20 events going.

"Next year and beyond, we hope to grow and look at developing further and having more sites across Sheppey."

■ **See www.yourswale.co.uk for all the news and sports headlines.**

GUEST SPEAKER: Star Michael Palin

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TECHNOLOGY

£10m grant only a quarter of rural broadband cash shortfall

UPGRADE: A further £32m is needed to bring the county's rural broadband up to scratch

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A £10 MILLION broadband boost is not enough to help Kent achieve its rural internet targets, says the county council's regeneration chief.

Despite receiving a larger slice of the Government's £530m fund than most other local authorities in the UK, the KCC grant falls some way short of the £42m needed to ensure 90 per cent of homes in Kent have access to superfast broadband.

Cllr Kevin Lynes, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said there was still plenty of work to be done.

"The Government has earmarked about a quarter of what we need," he added.

"We now need to work together to secure the rest of the money.

"The announcement comes as the county council, Medway, and Kent's district councils are having to make huge budget savings, and must be seen against that background.

"Initially we will need to work alongside our public sector partners to see if we can find innovative ways of raising the remaining money needed.

"At the same time there is a great opportunity for businesses to invest in super-fast broadband, which is critical for the county's economy to grow."

Currently about seven per cent of households in Kent have no access to broadband services of any kind, while 40 per cent are unable to achieve fixed-line transfer rates of two megabits per second.

And according to research released this week by the comparison website uSwitch.com, Cranbrook near Tunbridge Wells is the worst "not-spot" for broadband in the UK with download speeds up to five times slower than the national average.

KCC entered a bid for the full £42m from the Broadband Delivery UK fund last May but was left disappointed when the Government overlooked it in favour of three smaller bids from Norfolk, Wiltshire, and Devon and Somerset.

Following this week's funding announcement, Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt told Kent's residents: "Your council has a unique opportunity to bring decent broadband to every home and business in the county.

"We have done our part by allocating £9.87m to upgrade internet access in Kent.

"The UK is facing tough economic conditions but we've prioritised broadband because it is vital for growth and the businesses that will create new jobs.

"Now it is the turn of your local representatives to do their part to secure the economic future of Kent and ensure everyone can get online properly.

"The internet has changed the world. We cannot allow anyone in the UK to be left behind."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Plane rescue mission

A FUNDRAISING appeal has been started to raise a rare German bomber plane from the Goodwin Sands off the coast of Deal.

The Dornier 17 was shot down in the Battle of Britain on August, 26, 1940, and was discovered during an archaeological survey in 2008.

The RAF Museum in Hendon, London, aims to raise £600,000 to salvage the aircraft and put it on display.

Tuning out teenagers

THE works of classical composer Gustav Mahler are being used by Dartford Council to combat antisocial behaviour.

The 19th century musician's works have been successful at driving gangs of teenagers out of Prince's Tunnel, which has previously been a no-go zone at night. Graffiti has also stopped appearing, making the location less threatening.

The experiment could be extended to areas of parks suffering similar problems.

Airport closure threat

THANET District Council is due to decide later this year whether or not to grant extended operating hours to Manston, which chief executive Charles Buchanan says would create up to 3,000 jobs.

But he told the BBC it could be curtains for the airport if the application was rejected.

Mr Buchanan said: "Without the prospect of this (night flights) we don't get the prospect of a commercially successful future.

"If we can't do that then we'll have to look at other opportunities, and ultimately that could mean shutting the airport."

CRIME

Comedian is banned from the roads after failing to name speeding driver

COMIC Jim Davidson has been slapped with a six-month driving ban after a luxury sports car in his name was caught by a speed camera in Maidstone.

The star, who represented himself at Maidstone Magistrates Court, failed to name the driver of the lease car which was clocked doing 39mph in a 30mph zone on Loose Road.

The convertible Aston Martin DB9 Volante was captured on September 6 last year.

Andrew Perry, prosecuting, said Kent Police issued a notice to the vehicle lease company which nominated Davidson as the likely driver at the time of the offence.

But when a notice was sent to Davidson asking for him to identify the driver, he replied suggesting the police did not care who was really driving and asked: "I'm still making enquiries as to who was actually driving, but is it okay if I nominate someone I don't like?"

Davidson received several letters from the police giving him an opportunity to name the driver of the vehicle, but he claimed that he did not know and failed to offer any possibilities, the court was told. He was eventually summoned to court.

BANNED: Jim Davidson

Davidson told the court he did not know who was driving. He claimed that he had been fearful of giving the wrong information, so he did not provide any possible names to the police.

He accepted that he was probably in the two-seater vehicle when the camera was activated, but he was unsure if it was his bodyguard or himself behind the wheel.

He said his plans often changed, but he may have been on his way back from a golf event involving fellow-comedian Bobby Davro when the offence occurred.

The 57-year-old, of Houghton Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire, was found guilty of failing to provide information about the identity of the driver.

Davidson urged the court not to impose a driving ban, claiming that his charitable work would be affected. He said a ban would also impact on his show at the Rhyl Pavilion, in North Wales, this Wednesday.

Despite his claims he was awarded six penalty points on his driving licence, which along with six existing points, amounted to a ban.

But magistrates agreed to suspend the penalty after Davidson announced that he would appeal against his conviction and sentence.

He was also ordered to pay the maximum fine of £1,000 and costs of £750.

■ **For news and sport see www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

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EDUCATION

Students celebrate exam success in last chance to beat £9,000 tuition fees

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A-LEVEL pass rates have risen again in Kent following a battle to take advantage of existing university tuition fees.

From next year students will have to fork out £9,000 a year for a place at many of England's universities, so youngsters from the county's schools and colleges were eager not to miss out on the last opportunity to pay the current £3,290 maximum cost.

Although the final A-level results were not available at the time KoS went to press, Cllr Mike Whiting – deputy cabinet member for education at Kent County Council – said students were getting better grades year on year.

He added: "Although the competition for university places is greater this year, Kent's students have worked very hard and managed to get more UCAS points than last year. This will stand them in good stead when it comes to getting a university place.

"But it's not the end of the world for those who miss out because education is about more than just preparing people for university.

"Having A-levels makes you more employable and gives you better options for other lines of education like college or an apprenticeship.

"We must not over-emphasise the university element. These excellent results have increased students' life chances and career options, and that's all for good."

The University of Kent is one of the universities that will charge the maximum £9,000 in tuition fees from next year, while it will cost students £8,500 to study at either Canterbury Christ Church University or the University for the Creative Arts, which has campuses in Rochester, Canterbury and Maidstone. Courses at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus will cost £8,300.

Cllr Whiting said it was difficult to predict if fewer students will apply for university next year as a result of the price hikes.

He added: "Of course there will be students who won't want to saddle themselves with that increase in debt but the system agreed by the Government will probably see a reduction in the payments they have to make because they won't have to pay until they're earning £21,000 instead of £15,000. I think that will filter through eventually.

"At Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone I could only find one student out of 98 who was planning to take a gap year. I think that will change next year even if people's understanding of the new tuition fees system improves."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

READY FOR THE FUTURE: Students Fiona Young and Linda Hammoum learned their A-level results at Fort Pitt Grammar School on Thursday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fined for garden mess

A BUS driver who ignored two demands by a court to clear his untidy garden is now nearly £8,000 out of pocket.

Barrie Taylor, 52, ignored requests to clear the 'eyesore' behind his house in Woodstock Road, Strood. He was initially fined £40 for each day he failed to sort the mess. Four months later magistrates fined him a further £2,000. Now they have handed Taylor an extra £4,000 fine.

Taylor, who lives at Burridge Road, Plumstead, has also had to pay £45 in victim surcharges, £450 court costs, and £1,263.13 to Medway Council for clearing up his mess.

Teen's near-fatal crash

A 15-year-old suffered life-threatening head injuries after falling from a mini-moto motorcycle.

Kent Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident which happened at around 4pm in Cliftonville on Thursday, August 11.

The teen is believed to have fallen from the bike, which he was riding along a sea wall close to Hodges Gap.

Port's record traffic

THE Port of Dover says last Saturday was its busiest day of the year with more than 22,000 cars passing through the ferry port – 15 cars every minute of the day and night.

In spite of predictions that July 23 would be the busiest day of the year at the start of the school holidays, the number of cars through the port on August 14, beat that by 2,000.

Clearing doesn't have to be an ordeal

IT'S that time of year again as A Level results are published and the race begins to get a place at university. But even if you didn't get the grades you needed, keep calm, stay focused and it will pay off, say education chiefs.

The results were published on Thursday, with many teenagers facing clearing as they look to find a suitable place to pursue their degree.

UCAS, which manages university admissions, says nationwide there was a 1.3 per cent increase in applications this year – as many looked to nab a place before the hiked up university fees are introduced next year.

Mary Curnock Cook, UCAS chief executive, said: "History tells us that the majority of applicants whose places are dependent on their A-level results are likely to be successful.

"But, like last year, universities and colleges are managing admissions against a capped number of places so some applicants with near misses may need to think again.

"Our advice is to familiarise yourself with clearing. We expect that there will be plenty of vacancies in clearing this year but you do need to act quickly.

"Remember, choosing your course is a life-changing decision so do get advice from your teachers or family."

And key to securing a place is good preparation according to Bev Woodhams, head of recruitment at the University of Greenwich at Medway.

She said: "The most important thing will be to stay focused. You won't have time to panic. It will be tough and you will need to be prepared and realistic about your options."

Top tips for clearing:

- Be prepared, keep calm and stay focused.
- If you just missed your grades or points, contact your first choice university, which may still accept your application. If not, immediately get in touch with your second choice.
- If neither offers a place, think positive. You are now a clearing applicant and can apply to any UK university for a place on a course.
- Early birds will catch the worm. Check out clearing places and the grades or points required on university websites and in newspapers before the exam results are announced. If your UCAS points are close but not spot on, it still may be worth a call.
- If you can, visit the university. Most will have open days on August 20-21 – but you can always just go and take a look.
- If you have higher grades than expected take advantage of the five-day 'adjustment period' enabling you to look at other courses and universities knowing that your first choice is there if you still want it.
- Money makes a difference – make sure you find out about any available bursaries and scholarships. Every year a huge amount goes unclaimed.
- Once you have been made an offer you must confirm your choice online using UCAS Track. Some universities give you 24 hours, others up to a week – deadlines will be strict. It's also a good idea to personally let the university know you have accepted their offer.
- If it did not work out, don't despair. Seek out as much information as you can from school, college, university and careers advisory services. Find out about employers looking to take on students for apprenticeships and training courses. Look at jobs where the experience you gain will help you keep on your career track and boost your university application next year.

Find out more at www.ucas.com/clearing. If you need help applying through clearing or have a query about your application, you can contact the UCAS helpline on 0871 468 0468 between 7am and 7pm.

For expert, independent advice speak to an advisor on the Exam Results Helpline – 0808 100 8000, from 8am to 8pm.

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ANNIVERSARY

There's so much more to the Vikings who ransacked city

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A VIKING siege which resulted in the destruction of Canterbury Cathedral and the slaughter of hundreds of people is to be commemorated 1,000 years on.

On September 8, 1011, a large Norse army under the command of Thorkell the Tall launched a devastating attack on the city, burning homes, stealing people's belongings, and even kidnapping and stoning to death the then-archbishop.

A series of special events to mark the anniversary of the sacking have been arranged for next month, including historical re-enactments, lectures and family activity days.

Visitors will also be able to find out more about the 1960s children's classic Noggin the Nog, which was created by Blean artist Peter Firmin alongside the late Oliver Postgate.

"The Viking siege is something few people know about the history of the city," said Martin Crowther, learning and engagement manager for Canterbury museums.

"Everyone knows about Thomas Beckett, the Canterbury Tales and the bombing raids of the Second World War, but few are aware the Vikings even came here, let alone how devastating their arrival was.

"But we hope these events will also educate people about the Vikings themselves. Most people only think of them as being bloodthirsty rapers and pillagers – which in Canterbury they certainly were – but they were also talented shipbuilders, jewellery makers, and so on.

"They weren't just hairy bearded thugs with horns on their helmets – they never wore such helmets."

The Vikings had been on British soil for some time prior to the siege of Canterbury but had left the city alone after being paid off by some of its wealthy inhabitants.

It is believed they finally breached the city wall after three weeks of trying, with Archbishop Alphege one of many taken prisoner. He refused to allow a ransom of £3,000 to be paid for his release and was later pelted to death with bones and ox heads after a drunken Viking feast.

After burning down buildings, including the Saxon version of Canterbury Cathedral, the Vikings moved onto other cities in the South East before settling for a time in the north.

"Ironically some – including Thorkell the Tall – were then paid by English kings to defend the country against other Vikings," s aid Mr Crowther. "If money was available they weren't fussed who they were fighting against."

A number of organisations are involved in the programme, including Canterbury council, the Canterbury Society, and the University of Kent, see www.canterbury-museums.co.uk for details.

■ **For all the news and sport go to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.**

LEGENDS: Many of us only know about Vikings from stories, ranging from tales of rape and pillage to cartoons such as Noggin the Nog

OPEN SPACES

Queen grants royal backing for village rec

ROYAL protection has been granted to a village recreation ground as part of a scheme to protect the country's green spaces.

The park on the edge of Wingham, near Canterbury, is the first in Kent to be signed up to the Fields in Trust charity's Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

Wingham Parish Council chairman Bryan Curtis praised parish clerk Margaret Richards for her hard work in securing the rec's protection.

He added: "I am extremely proud we are the first in Kent to be awarded this unique status. It enables us to protect our rec forever when so many open spaces are being sold off."

TRANSPORT

High-speed freight to boost European trade

THE introduction of high-speed freight trains to the UK has been celebrated with a special naming ceremony.

A DB Schenker Rail locomotive which will travel through Kent on the High Speed 1 line has been given the name of the legendary 13th century merchant traveller Marco Polo.

Chief executive Alain Thauvette said the introduction of larger, heavier freight trains on the route will open up trading opportunities between the UK and the rest of Europe.

He added: "With the potential of 15 freight trains a week, this will help alleviate congestion on the M20 and M25."

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News

RIOTS

Police watchdog chief bites back at the Home Secretary

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

HOME Secretary Theresa May "should be ashamed of herself" for criticising police authorities in a speech on the riots.

Ahead of the introduction of elected police commissioners next year, Mrs May said the images of London mayor Boris Johnson visiting parts of the city following last week's troubles were in stark contrast to the "unaccountable, unelected and invisible" police authority chairmen.

Her comments angered several such people, including Kent Police Authority (KPA) chairwoman Ann Barnes, who pointed out the group's members had spent a day in Chatham discussing law enforcement concerns with some 400 residents.

She added: "The Government wants to replace police authorities with a US model and all-powerful figure, but I do not understand the fascination with all things American.

UNDER ATTACK: Theresa May

"There is a lot of disappointment with the comments of Theresa May and she should be ashamed of herself.

"She and the Prime Minister may not want us but we have spent years working hard. If you are going to be dismissive, at least do it from knowledge."

KPA currently consists of 17 non-elected board members, including a mix of independents and different party members from Kent County Council and Medway Council.

But under plans included in the Coalition agreement and due to be introduced next May, local people would elect a single official who would then set priorities for the force.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth would, in turn, be expected to meet these priorities in Kent.

This week Mrs Barnes published an open letter to the Prime Minister after he rejected a proposal to reconsider the proposals given the current difficulties in the police.

She wrote: "It grieves me to do so but I refuse to leave unchallenged your dismissal of good, honest citizens and what they do for our communities.

"It is unworthy of you and hurtful to so many people who only ever wish to give of their best for the public good.

"Police authority members are actually your Big Society at work. You may not want them but please do not insult them.

"They don't deserve it."

■ **Turn to pages 10 and 11 for more reaction to the riots.**

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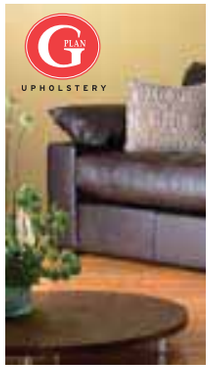

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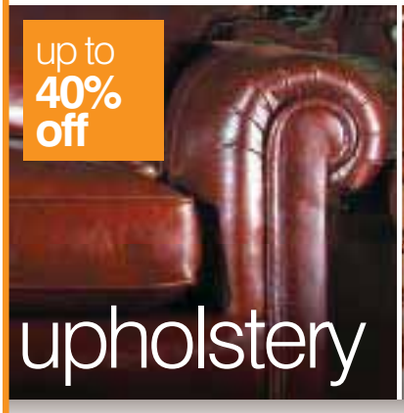

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FACTORIES: From left; the cannabis farms on the Joseph Wilson Industrial Estate in Whitstable; Coombe Valley Road, Dover; and Higher Shelvin Farm, Wootton, near Dover

CRIME

Number of cannabis farms almost doubles in just a year

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MORE than 100 cannabis farms were uncovered in Kent last year as the number of small producers growing the drug in residential properties soared.

Between April, 2010, and March, 2011, police discovered cannabis being cultivated in 107 properties – two a week – with 98 subsequent arrests.

The figures relate to not only industrial-sized operations but all seizures including small cannabis farms in residential buildings, such as terraced homes.

A Kent Police spokesman said historically cannabis factories were largely run by South Asian and Vietnamese organised crime gangs.

"However, these have tailed off in recent times because the Serious Organised Crime Agency has been working with individual forces to crack down on this type of crime and this effort has dented business," he said.

In 2009-10, figures from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) showed 57 cannabis seizures in Kent.

When taking into account cultivations in people's homes, the number for 2010-11 rose by almost 100 per cent.

The force urged communities to report any suspicious behaviour such as curtains constantly being drawn, lots of visitors coming and going, a lot of pots in gardens, and a possible strong smell.

The spokesman added: "Landlords need to check what their properties are used for, know who they're dealing with, check references, ID and their insurance cover."

The increased availability of hydroponic equipment, which enables people to grow their own cannabis, means it is now easier for people to cultivate the drug. Cannabis seeds are legal to buy, but cultivating them is illegal.

Only farms with more than 50 plants are counted as commercial cannabis factories by Kent Police.

CASE STUDY

A BUSINESSMAN was jailed for 10 years this week for conspiring to produce cannabis with a street value of £2 million at three Kent factories.

Father-of-four John Read (pictured), aged 54, of Marine Parade, Whitstable, was sentenced to nine years and a further 12 months for attempting to pervert the course of justice.

His co-defendant Roger Coombs, 70, of Crawley, Sussex, was sentenced to nine months, suspended for two years, for attempting to pervert the course of justice. He must also carry out 100 hours of unpaid work.

They were tried in relation to three cannabis factories found by police in Kent in 2009 and 2010.

The farms were at Higher Shelvin Farm, Wootton, near Dover; in industrial units in Coombe Valley Road in Dover; and at a unit on the Joseph Wilson Industrial Estate in Whitstable.

On sentencing Read, Recorder John Gower QC said: "This was a sophisticated, well-organised and professionally run organisation in which tens of thousands of pounds had been invested."

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ARTS

Seafront gets stunning transformation

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

THREE of the art world's most pioneering performers are working on a spectacular event to transform Margate seafront this month.

BLINK, as it has been named, will combine contemporary choreography from Wayne McGregor's Random Dance, spectacular pyrotechnic constructions by Pan Optikum, and experimental music from Scanner.

The project has been in development for 18 months.

Scanner, also known as Robin Rimbaud, said: "I think Margate will look like some sort of alien landscape."

The sound artist's music will accompany the visual extravaganza on the evening of Saturday, August 27.

Rimbaud said: "I want to be able to make sound move around. I like to create works that connect together and create a real sense of drama. It will be something that people can physically feel."

BLINK is being staged on the town's seafront, partly to mark the opening of the new Turner Contemporary Gallery.

FIREWORKS: Pan Optikum will be part of the spectacular finale

Rimbaud, who has worked with diverse groups such as the Royal Opera House, Science Museum and the band Radiohead said: "Wayne will be working with local people on the dance. Most of my work will be developed in the week of rehearsal. Wayne comes to me when he does not quite know how things are going to turn out but he trusts me and knows I can work quickly."

Rimbaud says he is excited about working on a seaside location. The town's Tannoy for finding lost children will be used to project the sound across the beach, reinforced by a giant sound system.

The finale of the event will be the giant moving objects designed by German group Pan Optikum.

Matthias Retner, creative director of the company, said: "We are used to venues in the centre of towns but this is the first time we have worked on the seashore. The main features are the waves coming and going. There is the relationship of the sea, tide and the waves, which is very interesting."

Pan Optikum's trademarks are large framed creations on which performers are suspended in front of fireworks.

Retner said: "We have been rehearsing in Germany and have made some new objects that will be used in the piece. These will move through the audience as the performance progresses."

To hear a sneak preview of Scanner's soundtrack and to watch a trailer for the event, visit www.blinkmargate.org.

■ **For news and sport go to www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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Starkey in race row

BARHAM resident David Starkey is in the middle of a race row after appearing to suggest black culture was to blame for the riots.

The TV historian, who lives near Canterbury, was on BBC2's Newsnight show when he refered to Enoch Powell's infamous 'rivers of blood' speech.

Dr Starkey went on to say: "The whites have become black. A particular sort of violent, destructive, nihilistic, gangster culture has become the fashion.

"And black and white, boy and girl, operate in this language together, this language which is wholly false, which is this Jamaican patois that's been intruded in England, and this is why so many of us have this sense of a foreign country."

Dr Starkey's comments were attacked by Labour leader Ed Miliband, TV presenter and former tabloid editor Piers Morgan, and BBC business editor Robert Peston.

However, he did win backing from author and commentator Toby Young and conservative writer James Delingpole.

RIOTS

'Loss of moral framework has plunged us into barbarism'

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

RELIGIOUS leaders have spoken out against the rioting that tore parts of England apart last week.

Shocking displays of lawlessness resulted in gangs of yobs wrecking their own communities, with some of the country's biggest cities affected by countless acts of arson, looting and vandalism.

The trouble flared in London but quickly spread to locations including Manchester, Birmingham and even Kent, where youths started several fires across Medway and Dartford.

Former Bishop of Rochester Michael Nazir-Ali was one of several religious leaders to condemn the acts of the rioters, saying Britain had plunged into "new barbarism" in a letter to the Sunday Telegraph.

He wrote: "What made Britain great was a sense of responsibility, of accountability to one another and, ultimately, to God.

"It is the loss of this moral framework that has led to the plunge into the new barbarism. We must take steps to strengthen the family as a place for moral and spiritual formation where our children first learn about boundaries.

"We each make choices and decisions based on our value systems. Godlessness has only produced selfishness and greed.

"The well-tried Christian faith has given us hope in the past and can do so again now."

Picture: RAYMOND YAU

DISORDER: Across England there were violent scenes of gangs of youths confronting police officers

The fatal shooting of 29-year-old Mark Duggan by Met Police officers in Tottenham, north London, was the catalyst for the first protest and subsequent riot which took place on Saturday, August 6.

But the violence which spread to other parts of the capital and beyond is largely thought to be without credible motive, fuelled by troublemakers using social media websites like Twitter.

Last weekend members of six Anglican churches took to the streets of Sittingbourne to ask people to commit to being part of a better society. The parishioners – from the villages of Newington, Iwade, Hartlip, Stockbury, Lower Halstow and Upchurch – were armed with leaflets suggesting ways in which they can help, including baking cakes for police officers and praying for the victims of the riots.

It also contains a copy of the 10 Commandments, which they suggest parents and grandparents should teach to their young ones.

The Reverend Hugh Nelson, curate of the six parishes, said: "We have all been shocked by the riots and looting which took place.

"We now want to turn the shock and horror into something hopeful, and by asking people to commit themselves to building a better society we hope this month will be the start of something new and positive."

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CHANGE: Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali says we must strengthen our moral and spiritual framework to prevent riots from happening again in England

Meanwhile, the team behind Gravesend's £14 million Sikh gurdwara have tightened security at the temple as a result of the riots.

Senior vice president Bakhshish Singh Sodhi added that the management committee plans to review its relationship with the police and Gravesham council to ensure their community continues to feel safe.

He said: "We have been monitoring the situation closely and I am grateful to our Sikh youths who have worked with the gurdwara committee to maintain a sense of calm within the community."

■ **See Opinion, p26, for more on the riots.**

EXPERT VIEW

'Investment will stop future riots'

AN EXPERT in gang-related violence says the Government should pump more money into poorer communities to prevent any future riots.

Dr Eduardo Vasquez, a lecturer in forensic psychology at the University of Kent, believes poverty-stricken areas breed hostility among people who live tough lives with little hope for a good future.

He said: "In marginalised neighbourhoods, authority is often perceived as hostile or uncaring, and as protecting only the interests of the rich and powerful. As a result, the rich, leaders and the authorities are disliked.

"Eventually, triggering events motivate some in such communities to retaliate on a larger scale. Taking matters into your own hands can feel good, especially when you are often powerless and your peers are also involved."

Dr Vasquez studied at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and the University of Southern California (USC), and his research interests include aggression and displaced aggression; inter-group relations; inter-group conflict and aggression; gang-related violence; and alcohol and social behaviours.

He added: "The best way to prevent tragic incidents such as the riots is to invest in our communities; to see their potential for contributing many good things and bringing out those factors that turn the potential into a reality.

"If we invest in marginalised people, they will reward their society. Nothing worth doing is easy, but not investing in people does make things harder in the long run."

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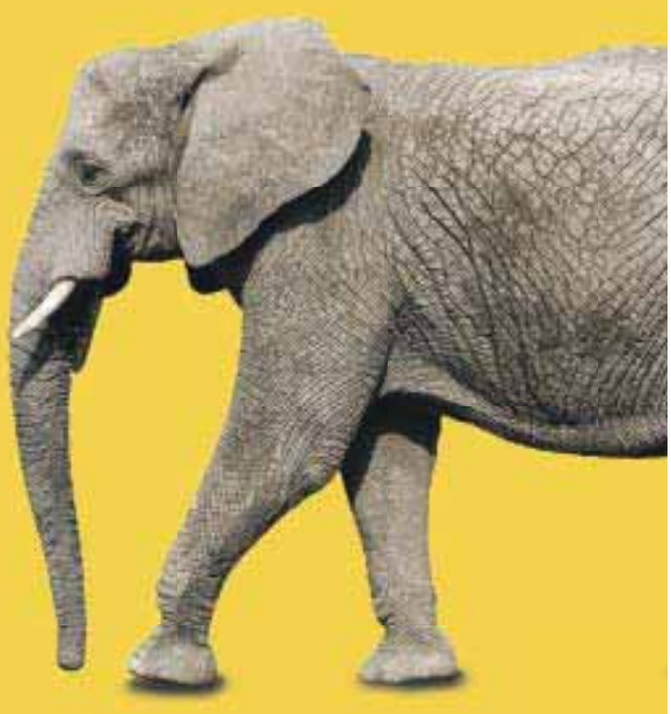

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News

WILDLIFE

Will you join the battle against alien invaders taking over our coast?

Victoria Adley
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE lure of the Kent coast is proving to be irresistible to invading alien species.

According to the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), our shoreline is being threatened by an influx of non-native sea wildlife, exhausting the natural habitat for our native dwellers.

These creatures arrive on our coast as hitchhikers aboard commercial ships, plastic debris and other drifting materials.

One of the aliens, wireweed, is a type of brown seaweed. It takes over our rock pools, suffocating marine wildlife and invading space that was once the sole home to our native seaweed.

Sailors report that wireweed can also become tangled around propellers.

Another intruder is the slipper limpet, a type of sea snail that attaches itself to solid surfaces in shallow coastal waters.

INTRUDER: The slipper limpet

These creatures reproduce at an alarming rate, smothering the seabed with empty shells that wash up all over the shore.

Emma Snowden from MCS said: "The names of these foreign species may sound exotic but their impact on our own habitats, species and ecosystems can be invasive and destructive."

Our own wildlife is simply being squeezed out.

Guy Baker of the Marine Biological Association said: "This matters not simply because of the loss of our native biodiversity but also because biological invasions are potentially damaging to the industries that depend on healthy and productive inshore waters."

The Chinese mitten crab, found by the River Thames, can grow to the size of a dinner plate. It burrows into banks causing subsidence, damaging the natural flood defences.

Now the MCS is joining forces with the Marine Life Information Network to urge members of the public to help identify new species.

Get a copy of the ID guide at www.mcsuk.org and report any sightings of alien invaders.

EDUCATION

110,000 people leave education without any formal qualifications

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MORE than 110,000 people in Kent do not have a single qualification, according to new research.

Despite a rise in the number of people gaining GCSEs over the past three years, figures released by the University and College Union (UCU) show thousands of 16 to 64 year-olds struggle through life with no formal qualifications.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey was exposed as the worst, with 20 per cent – 12,300 – of its 60,000 population figure unqualified.

Maidstone also fared badly with some 10,000 of its 65,500 population – 15 per cent – with not one qualification.

Figures used for the UCU analysis were taken from the Office for National Statistics for January-December, 2010.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, learning and skills Cllr Sarah Hohler, said it was vital people left school with the right qualifications.

"Last year's GCSE results showed 93 per cent of students with five passes," she said. "These will help them go on to further education, employment or training. We have also been pioneering hugely popular vocational courses."

More than 8,300 14 to 16 year-olds have undertaken a vocational course one day a week over two years, with many of these young people taking up further education or employment.

KCC also operates the Skills Plus network for adults.

General secretary of the UCU, Sally Hunt, said that education was central to the country's future.

"There is a real danger that children growing up in certain areas will have their ambition blunted and never realise their full potential," she said. "The Government needs to urgently revisit its education policies if we are to really offer improved life chances to all."

■ **To access Skills Plus call 0845 606 5606.**

QUALIFICATIONS FIGURES

Constituency	Population	Unqualified	Percent
Ashford	68,100	6,700	9.8
Canterbury	75,900	6,000	7.9
Dartford	67,200	5,200	7.7
Dover	52,000	5,700	11
Faversham and Mid-Kent	56,300	6,000	10.7
Folkestone	61,200	4,900	8.1
Gillingham and Rainham	58,800	5,000	8.5
Gravesham	63,200	9,000	14.2
Maidstone	65,500	10,000	15.3
North Thanet	49,500	5,000	10.1
Rochester and Strood	72,100	11,300	15.7
Sevenoaks	63,400	8,900	14
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	60,000	12,300	20.5
South Thanet	58,000	6,600	11.4
Tonbridge and Malling	60,000	6,700	11.1
Tunbridge Wells	60,000	5,000	8.4

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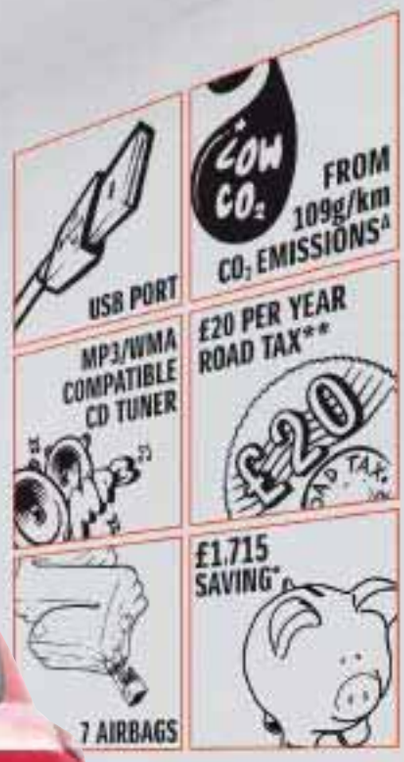

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News

ENERGY

Gas plant sparks safety campaign

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

VILLAGERS living in the shadow of a giant gas storage plant have accused their council of failing to ensure they are adequately protected.

Medway Council has published an emergency plan for the liquified natural gas (LNG) plant on the Isle of Grain, but campaigners say it does not contain enough information on what they should do in the event of an explosion or major incident.

They also claim the document gives scant detail on the potential hazards at the site, which contains four storage tanks larger than the Albert Hall.

"If something goes wrong nobody will know what to do," said villager Jack Hope. "If those tanks go up we won't be here anymore. But we're not receiving answers from the council."

IT'S A GAS: The LNG Grain site

Owned and operated by the National Grid, the LNG plant stores imported gas and has enough capacity to hold almost 15 million tonnes per year.

There are now plans for a further expansion of the site within the next five years.

But Mr Hope, whose Facebook group raising awareness of safety concerns currently has more than 250 members, opposes the expansion plans.

A National Grid spokesman said the site had operated for more than 30 years with an excellent safety record.

He added: "Grain LNG is a Comah (control of major accident hazards) site, and everything has to be done to stringent guidelines set down by the Health and Safety Executive."

A public meeting to address the villagers' safety concerns will be held on September 20.

A Medway Council spokesman said the emergency plan was not an "exact script to follow" as the emergency services are responsible for dealing with such incidents. He said a detailed plan for dealing with a crisis had restricted access for security reasons.

■ **For news and sport see www.yourmedway.co.uk.**

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News

POLITICS

'Gagged' politicians form breakaway parish council in homes battle

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A LEGAL dispute over unsigned paperwork has torn a parish council apart at a cost of £8,000 to the villagers it represents.

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council elected six new members in May, who have since formed their own breakaway authority after being told they had lost their seats for not signing induction documents.

The new members – all opponents of an Ashford council scheme to build thousands of new homes on farmland at Chilmington Green – say they refused to sign after being told they would not be allowed to discuss the planned development at any future meetings.

But while the breakaway six now claim to be the legitimate parish council, the official group is set to hold by-elections in October to replace them at a cost to the taxpayer of about £8,000.

Official parish council clerk Linda Bussey said: "We have followed the letter of the law all the way through this debacle.

"Because they didn't sign their forms, they immediately made their seats vacant. I sympathise with them because they were fairly elected, but by law they can't just come back in now.

"They're well within their rights to stand for election again but they are not the legitimate parish council."

Up to 7,000 houses could be built on greenfield land from Great Chart and Singleton to Shadoxhurst and Bethersden, under the Chilmington Green plan.

The scheme is unpopular among many of those who live nearby, including the six members of the breakaway council.

Spokesman Max Frohnsdorff said the group refused to take their seats after being warned by Ms Bussey they would not be allowed to attend meetings, vote upon or have any say on matters concerning the development.

He added: "The six are ordinary residents volunteering their time to serve the community. They did not expect to be subjected to this kind of treatment.

"This is scandalous behaviour which makes us feel as though we live in a rotten borough."

Ms Bussey said it was not unusual for councillors to give up their right to speak on issues they have a personal interest in.

She added: "They are all residents of Chilmington Green so if and when the development is discussed, their interests are such that they would be prejudiced and so wouldn't be able to discuss it or vote."

■ **For news and sport go to www.yourashford.co.uk.**

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HEALTH

Hospital stroke care 'third best in the UK'

CARE for people suffering from a stroke is better in east Kent's hospitals than almost anywhere else in the country, according to a report from the Royal College of Physicians.

The William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, is the third best in the country for stroke care.

The Stroke Improvement National Audit Programme measures different elements of stroke patients' care during their first 72 hours in hospital.

The care given at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury; Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate; and William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, is in the top quarter of all hospitals' performance ratings across the country.

PETS

Pet diet plea after rise in fat cats and dogs

THE number of fat cats and dogs taken to one of Kent's top animal re-homing centres has doubled in the past year.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Brands Hatch is now calling on pet owners to monitor their animals' weight after the boom in obesity.

It says failure to keep pampered pets trim can result in health difficulties.

If you can offer an animal a new home, contact Battersea Brands Hatch on 01474 875106 or email bbh.rehomers@battersea.org.uk.

COMPETITIONS

WIN an all-year family ticket and free entry to Leeds Castle events

LEEDS Castle has two fantastic events next month, and we have tickets to be won – and the chance to win a Key to the Castle family ticket which gives you entry to the historic landmark for a year.

On September 9 bring the family to watch knights on horseback recreating a late 13th century joust. See medieval weaponry and watch displays of spectacular action, stunts, falls, fights and galloping horses.

As the daylight fades, relax with a picnic and enjoy an open-air film screening of A Knight's Tale starring Heath Ledger.

Gates open for this event at 6pm and tickets cost £20 for adults and £15 for children under 16. The film is rated PG. Contact the box office on 01622 880008 or visit leeds-castle.com/events.

The medieval jousting continues at the castle on September 10-11 during the day. Thrilling twice-daily tournaments will take place over the weekend, with historical activities on offer for children of all ages including archery and medieval themed crafts in a marquee. An additional charge of £2 per child applies.

On September 3-4 visitors to the castle can travel back to the 1930s when Bentley and Rolls Royce cars will be on display on the Cedar Lawn, along with a wide selection of pre-war vehicles for enthusiasts to admire.

And weather permitting, hot-air balloons will

tether early afternoon, and later in the day they will take-off and soar high above the 900-year-old castle.

To be in with a chance of winning one of five pairs of jousting and cinema tickets answer this question:

Q) Who stars in the film A Knights Tale?
A – Heath Ledger, B – Tom Cruise
C – George Clooney

Text JOUSTING (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343.

We also have three family Key to the Castle tickets to be won, which will give entry to the Balloons and Bentley event, and let you into the castle all-year round.

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How old is Leeds Castle?
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News

WILDLIFE

Bloom and mum back butterflies

By James Reid
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HOLLYWOOD star Orlando Bloom is backing efforts to save the UK's threatened butterflies by sponsoring a book aimed at helping children engage with the natural world.

Bloom, 34, has sponsored Crystal, the Small Miracle, a children's book about butterflies written by his mother Sonia Copeland Bloom.

She lives in Canterbury, and the actor grew up in the city, attending The King's School and St Edmund's School.

The Lord of the Rings actor, who is in New Zealand filming The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, said: "Butterflies are powerful symbols of the beauty and vulnerability of nature."

Crystal, the Small Miracle, mixes fact and fiction to chart the life story of a butterfly from tiny egg to fully formed butterfly. It is published by wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation.

NATURE BOY: Orlando Bloom

Orlando said: "The story of Crystal, the Small Miracle, written by my mother for children, reflects her own love of butterflies as well as her passion for children to be educated about the insect world."

Sonia explained: "The transformation of caterpillar to chrysalis and then butterfly is one of nature's greatest miracles.

"After witnessing it, I wanted children everywhere to share this incredible experience.

"Too many adults do not appreciate insects and are unnecessarily scared of them and their children can be affected by this. Young children usually love little creatures – until they are put off them."

Butterfly Conservation chief executive Dr Martin Warren added: "Sadly butterflies and moths are declining rapidly in the UK and around the world. They need our help like never before."

Crystal, the Small Miracle, is available from www.butterfly-conservation.org at £.5.99 including postage and packaging.

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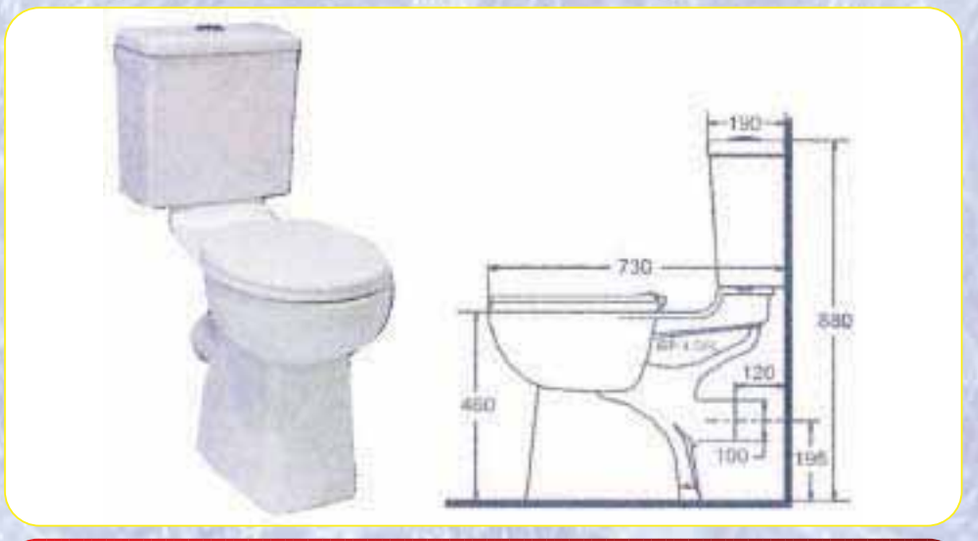

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DEVELOPMENT

Blueprint a nightmare vision of Kent says rural campaign

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL campaigners have issued a damning response to a new document setting out the county's future ambitions, claiming it would spark a rise in "inappropriate" development.

Protect Kent – the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) – said the newly-released Vision for Kent paper, a countywide strategy for social, economic and environmental wellbeing, was "overwhelmingly biased" towards economic growth.

Although campaigners said the authors of the report had "laudable" aims, they claimed the document had a limited approach to the increasing environmental constraints faced by the county.

Vision for Kent 2011-2021 was drawn up by the Kent Forum, a partnership of councils, chaired by leader of Kent County Council Cllr Paul Carter.

The document, which is under consultation until August 22, set out three ambitions; growing the economy, tackling disadvantage, and putting citizens in control.

It involves the development of transport infrastructure, such as the Third Thames Crossing and improving rail links, to attract businesses and create more jobs, as well as ways to work towards reducing deprivation through communication with communities.

But campaign manager at Protect Kent, Andrew Ogden, said the document was biased towards economic growth.

"There is little recognition for those two other accepted cornerstones of a sustainable community – our environment and our society," he said.

"All three are commonly regarded as inter-related, inter-dependent elements for a stable, healthy, self-governing civilisation.

"Whilst growth is an excellent ambition, it absolutely has to be sustainable in environmental terms; otherwise we will simply be passing the problems of today onto the generations of tomorrow."

The Vision for Kent document is linked in with the Growth Without Gridlock transport plan, the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy, and others including the county's environment strategy, and learning and skills strategy.

Cllr Carter, said: "This is a period of unprecedented reform and budget reductions.

"There are significant changes in education and schools, policing, health, and more. These will bring great challenges for the public and voluntary sectors and for the people and businesses of Kent.

"We want to create a stable and strong society where people can plan for their futures. We want to work with out communities to develop chances and opportunities and to break through barriers.

"The county has much strength to draw on, including an enterprising private sector, a strong voluntary sector and excellent and innovative public services.

"Over the coming years, the three countywide ambitions will be at the forefront of what we all do to make Kent a better place to live and work."

But director of Protect Kent, Dr Hilary Newport, said: "We share the acute awareness of the state of the nation's, and the world's, economy and recognise that Kent must play its part in addressing public sector overspending, but not at the expense of overstretching its already pressurised resources.

"The Vision, in its section on Growing the Economy, also focuses on some of the transport infrastructure provision that we consider to be particularly unsustainable, particularly its stated intention to lobby for a third Thames Crossing.

"It is our contention that this step would facilitate and indeed encourage unsustainable transport patterns, most particularly the growth of road-based freight through the county."

■ **To see the document visit www.kentforum.org.uk.**

FLAWED: Campaigners say Vision for Kent document, which includes plans for a third Thames crossing, fails to recognise the environmental constraints facing the county

TRANSPORT

Dartford Crossing survey appeal

BUSINESSES which use the Dartford Crossing are being urged to complete a survey in response to planned toll increases.

The Government wants to charge HGV drivers up to £6 per crossing by next year, and is also consulting on proposals for technology that would remove the need for barriers and so cut congestion. The Kent branch of the Federation of Small Businesses is asking firms to complete a survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/DartfordThurrockCrossing.

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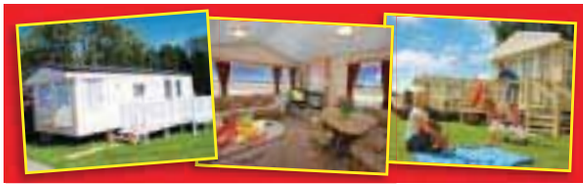

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PROPERTY

Repossession 'artificially low' till house prices go up

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

FALLING house prices are thought to have contributed to the lowest number of repossession orders in Kent for almost six years.

Latest figures released by the Ministry of Justice show that 310 mortgage possession orders – the final stage before people lose their homes – were issued in the county's courts between April and June this year.

This is the lowest quarterly number since the final three months of 2005, when there were just 295 orders.

According to Mark Ellison, Kent service manager for the housing charity Shelter, the low number may be due to mortgage lenders wanting a better return on the properties they sell following repossession.

HOMELESS: Property repossessions have dropped significantly

He said: "Most people would expect repossession figures to rise during times of financial difficulty, but mortgage lenders are likely to hold off and repossess properties when house prices are on the increase rather than when they are falling.

"It's just one of the ways in which lenders operate. It's always a good thing when people are allowed to stay in their homes."

Nationally the number of homes repossessed by mortgage lenders fell slightly in the first half of the year, from 9,100 in the first quarter to 9,000 in the second.

But industry experts predict the figures will rise for the rest of the year to bring an estimated total of 40,000 repossessions.

Chris Gardner, director of independent mortgage broker Obligo, said: "The current figures are being kept artificially low by two important factors – the interest rate is at a historic low and lenders have shown remarkable forbearance.

"Together they have created a fool's paradise, where mortgage payments are comparatively low and lenders are being especially tolerant of late payers.

"But lenders' forbearance cannot last forever. If they change their approach then the rug will quickly be pulled from under many late payers, leading to thousands more repossessions."

When landlord possession orders are also taken into account for people who rent their properties, there are 800 households currently at risk of repossession in Kent and 205 in Medway.

Mr Ellison revealed that Shelter now offered debt advice to help people in danger of losing their homes, with services based in Ashford, Chatham and Dover.

He said: "Slipping into debt is often the start of a downward spiral that can end in losing a home, which is why it is absolutely vital people struggling with their finances seek advice as early as possible."

Visit www.shelter.org.uk for details.

WILDLIFE

Otters are back in Kent – the final frontier

THE sighting of two otters in Kent has delighted conservationists who had feared the iconic mammal could be lost from England's waterways forever.

A country-wide wildlife survey by the Environment Agency last year found that otters, which almost disappeared from England in the 1970s due to the toxic effects of pesticides, were recovering well and had been found in every English county except Kent.

Now wildlife experts at the Environment Agency have confirmed there are at least two otters in Kent, which have built holts on the river Medway and the river Eden.

WELCOME: At least two otters are in Kent

Otters, which were nearly extinct in the 1970s, recovered after a ban on harmful pesticides and legal protection given to them, making it an offence to intentionally kill or harm the animal.

They have also been helped by a significant improvement in water quality over the past 20 years, bringing fish back to rivers that were once grossly polluted.

Otters are at the top of the food chain, and are an important indicator of the health of rivers.

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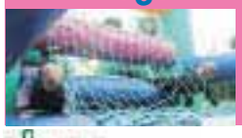

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News

FAMILY

Japan torment for separated father

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A DISTRAUGHT father who claims his estranged wife ran off to Japan with their children says he is powerless to get them back.

Michael McDermott, 33, from Deal, says he has not seen his 12-year-old daughter or eight-year-old son since their mother returned to her home country with them in April last year.

There is currently no legal framework in Japan to deal with cross-border custody disputes, which Mr McDermott fears will lead to a breakdown in the relationship between him and his children.

"It's bound to have an effect on them," he said. "I haven't been able to talk to them apart from two 30-minute phone calls, so I don't really know what their feelings are about all this.

"It seems unfair they're being deprived of one parent but there's nothing I can do about it. I knew my wife and I were going through some difficult times and divorce had been brought up, but I didn't expect her to take the kids to Japan and stay there.

ILL: Michael McDermott

"It's absolutely devastating. I just feel helpless."

Japan said last May that it plans to sign up to the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which sets out rules for the prompt return of children aged 16 and under to their home country in cases of international divorce.

However, campaigners say parents served with an application under the Hague convention can flee the country because there are no associated powers to stop people leaving.

The Foreign Office put Mr McDermott in touch with Reunite – a charity specialising in international parental child abduction – but he told KoS he was not getting his hopes up.

He said: "It's outrageous Japan doesn't have proper rules in place.

"I'm attempting mediation with my wife through Reunite but there's no guarantees anything will come of it.

"This whole ordeal has been very hard. I'm usually a tough character at heart but the stress is making me really ill.

"It looks like the only way I'll get to see my children again is if I go to Japan myself."

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OPINION

Riots not a distant problem

The violence and looting that swept the country and shocked the nation brought back memories of disorder in the county for Cllr Mike Haywood

TWENTY years ago, a part of Sittingbourne was experiencing its own 'rioting and looting'. It was witnessed with the same disbelief and anger from the local community that people have expressed in the last week across the country in places like Croydon, Birmingham and Manchester. And it lasted more than three years.

Like the events that unfolded on our television screens recently, the events in Kemsley in the early 1990s were not a symptom of young people being driven by poverty.

In the space of three years, Kemsley erupted and turned from a sleepy backwater into a place no one in their right mind wanted to live.

True, there were many decent people living in the village. But despite this, joyriding was rife and windows were broken on a regular basis. Graffiti on almost every street corner became the norm. Garages were broken into then became disused. The bowls club was burned to the ground. People were afraid to call the police for fear of retaliation.

Swale Housing Association had to transfer a man who had taken a stand, and his family out of the area, after he was assaulted and his property attacked.

At the time, the troubles were put down to Kemsley being a "former council estate suffering from the excesses of 1960s and 1970s urban design". Yet there are many estates around the country like Kemsley that had not suffered antisocial behaviour.

In Kemsley there was a large concentration of teenagers and, unlike today, Kemsley was isolated. Milton Regis was a 20 minute walk. Sittingbourne was a bus or train ride away. Apart from the Village Stores there was nothing.

Few people – significantly, including the who didn't commit any crime – felt they had a stake in the future of the area and petty criminality became the accepted norm.

By the end of 1994, Swale Housing Association, which had taken over council housing, threw in the towel. The caretaker scheme it had trialled failed to turn the tide, so it got planning permission to demolish garages that lined roads off Ypres Drive and build more socially rented housing, at a cost of £2.5 million.

Yet the troubles disappeared before a single brick was laid.

The truth is that within a year or so, the cohort of young people who had been the cause of the problems had simply grown up.

So what are the lessons of our own 'freak' crime wave?

Those responsible for public disorder and antisocial behaviour should be named and shamed and those who commit the worse excesses should get stiff sanctions and sentences.

But there is an onus on us to build the respect and sense of responsibility in our community.

There is no excuse for crime, or for failing to tackle the causes of disorder

We have a duty when we build communities to have something to offer them. We have to provide communities with facilities and services so we avoid a repeat of Swale's past in which young people, in particular, have nothing to do and nowhere to go.

There's no excuse for crime. Equally, there's no excuse for failing to tackle the causes of disorder and disharmony.

As one of five councillors on Swale Borough Council's 'emergency committee', I waited by my phone during the early part of last week for the call. I'm pleased it didn't come.

But I am under no illusions that the events on our TV screens were a far distant cry from which nothing can be learned.

■ **Cllr Mike Haywood is shadow cabinet member for housing and sustainable communities on Swale Borough Council.**

KOS COMMENT

Government help is long overdue in Kent

IT'S taken some time but finally the Government has demonstrated its commitment to helping the Kent economy.

The announcement that the Pfizer site in Sandwich is to become an Enterprise Zone is one many people were hoping for, and there would have been outrage if it had missed out.

But George Osborne and friends have finally realised that the South East is not entirely wealthy, and that even the Garden of England needs an occasional watering from the public purse to help it grow.

Why Noggin does not do the Vikings justice

A THOUSAND years ago Canterbury was besieged by an army of Vikings who burned homes, stole possessions and even stoned the archbishop to death.

No wonder so few people are aware of this landmark moment when Hagar the Horrible and Noggin the Nog are all we have to remember these fearsome warriors by.

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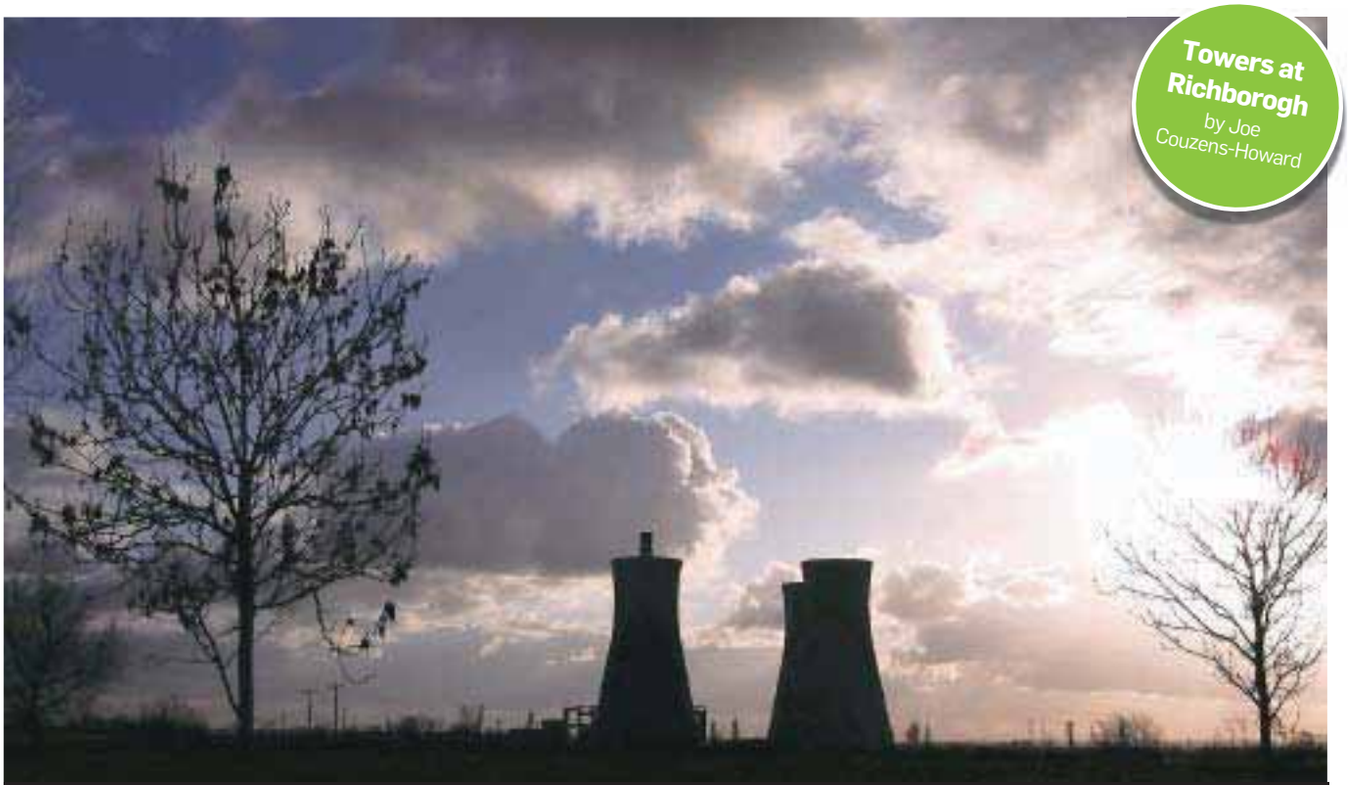

Towers at Richborogh by Joe Couzens-Howard

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Road deaths have reduced

In response to Brian MacDowell's backlash at our casualty reduction figures last week (Campaign group rubbishes speed camera claims, August 13), the Partnership would like to clarify a few things.

Firstly, the casualties have all happened within the signed area of a camera, ie, within the black and white signs.

At no point have we "claimed excessive speed is the only contributing factor to crashes". The Partnership's main objective is to reduce speeds and casualties, so of course we are going to talk about speed. The severity of injury is largely down to the speed on impact: a lower speed often results in a less serious injury. If we can reduce speeds at places where there is a history of crashes resulting in serious injuries and fatalities then surely that makes sense.

Mr MacDowell would do well to remember that there is a remarkable amount of work going on in Kent in order to reduce casualties on our roads, and safety cameras are only one tool in the toolbox. The Partnership are not "taking the credit" for reducing casualties – drivers on the roads of Kent should take the credit.

We do not claim to have any impact on any other part of the road network or any other causation factors, and we are of course aware of major contributing factors such as drink driving, fatigue, use of mobile phones, and wearing of seat belts.

There is a host of other education, engineering and enforcement being tirelessly worked on by Kent County Council, Medway Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, and the Highways Agency, in order to reduce casualties. No-one is "taking credit" for anything – this is about making our roads safer and limiting the number of people involved in these devastating and life-changing incidents.

Someone of the opinion that the Partnership's recent campaign is "no doubt part of its charm offensive to justify its existence" would benefit from accepting our previous invitation to meet so that we can clarify our role in casualty reduction in Kent and get to the underlying issue.

Katherine Barrett, Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership

Politicians have no idea

Just to show how bereft they are of ideas and how ignorant they are of their own culpability, our glorious leaders are to ship in a police supremo from the States.

That's why they can never solve the problems that beset us, because they haven't a clue what they've done.

Politicians have systematically destroyed our society by the state sponsorship of fatherless families and the removal of discipline. By protecting criminals in place of protecting victims, the dumbing down of education, making youngsters unemployable, the failure to properly invest in youth, and the overloading of state services to the detriment of us all.

Added to this are the appalling standards set by MPs who lie, cheat and fiddle their expenses. By bankers who show how greed is good. By grossly overpaid sportsmen who stick two fingers up to morals, decency and society. By the rest of the crew who promote me, me, me, culture and to hell with everybody.

After 50 years of the most generous welfare state in the world, the experiment has proved a failure and as the politicians go through their taunts blaming each other, Great Britain still cries out for leaders with guts, vision and an ability to recognise, speak and deal with the truth.

Instead we have self-serving career politicians busy blaming each other.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Parking is a secutiry issue

The idiots are out again tonight. Illegally parked in non-parking areas. Wandering the road because the Red Arrows and other planes are there.

They're a security risk waiting to happen – especially in the current climate.

Also an idiot will get killed wandering in the road which is not a pedestrian area.

There is absolutely no security at Manston.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Cameron's floundering

Cameron's cry of "NHS safe in our hands" must be really up for debate now as the waiting times get longer.

Now it would seem that our country is no longer safe in his hands and he really does not seem to have the answers.

Hand-wringing and threats are just not going to solve this problem as most of the culprits are to young to be punished.

Once again Mr Cameron appears to be out of his depth.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Remember the disabled

At a time when many people are going on holiday and MPs are taking a break from Westminster it is important that we remember people who are struggling to afford everyday living, nevermind a holiday.

Earlier this year, the Learning Disability Coalition surveyed people with a learning disability and was alarmed to discover that the number of people unable to afford basic items, such as food and clothing, has increased, and in most cases has nearly doubled over the last eight years. Disturbingly, the survey showed that the number of people unable to pay for heating has increased from four per cent to 15 per cent – a figure which is likely to increase as prices are going up.

This fall in living standards is compounded by cuts to essential social care support and welfare support. For people with a learning disability, who are often reliant on this support from birth, the situation is grim.

If our MPs are lucky enough to have a holiday this year I hope they will also take the time to consider how to end the crisis in social care.

Tony Godsall, Maidstone

We must beat fuel poverty

Kent is one of the worst counties in the country for insulating its homes, according the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Kent Greens have criticised councils for failing to reduce energy bills in homes and have called for an immediate effort to improve insulation levels and reduce bills.

Seven of Kent's 12 local councils were in the bottom quartile for insulation that has been part-funded by the Energy Saving Trust under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, which places an obligation on energy suppliers to reduce household emissions.

All of Kent's local councils were below the national average. Fuel bills are reaching new highs and will continue to rise, yet councils have failed to promote the easiest of schemes.

Kent's position in the bottom quarter of the insulation league demonstrates the lack of concern Conservative ruling groups have. Elsewhere councils have match-funded the Energy Saving Trust's scheme and provided free insulation.

Proper insulation can save households around £100 per year, and combat fuel poverty, as well as reducing our dependency on imported gas and oil, and reducing our carbon emissions. It is time councils in Kent started to offer to insulate homes for free.

Stuart Jeffery, Chair of Kent Green Party

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Where there's a will there can be problems

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q If a mother dies and her daughter is left nothing in the mother's will, can the daughter contest it? Or, if the daughter is left just a small amount, has she got the right to contest the will to secure a larger bequest? If the mother has written her own will, properly witnessed but without the involvement of solicitors, does this make any difference?

A Homemade wills are always risky. It is easy to make a mistake without realising it. For example, how many people are aware that making someone a beneficiary as well as a witness to your will just doesn't work? Your will would still be valid, but the witness is not allowed to receive a bequest. Your mother's will (I assume we are talking about you and your mother) may be absolutely fine, but if she prepared it herself, there is a greater chance of an error creeping in. However, if the will is valid but you are left out, or are left very little, what can you do? Well, you could argue that your mother was suffering from some condition that meant she was not capable of making a will. Or you could claim that she was unduly influenced by someone who bullied or deceived her into writing her will in a particular way. You could say that you had an agreement with your mother over her will. For example, if you have given up your job so you can look after her and nurse her, on the understanding that you will inherit the family home, then a court might well set aside a will that leaves the property to someone else and award it to you instead. If none of this works, there is always a law called the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975. Each case is dealt with on its merits, but in a nutshell, if you believe you have been treated unfairly, you can lodge a claim. Claims can come, for example, from ex-wives and ex-husbands, former civil partners, children – including grown-up children – and anyone else who was dependant on the deceased. But if you think there are legal snags in writing your own will, please accept that there are 10 times as many potholes in trying to contest one! Do see a solicitor.

Q I am sending you a letter I have received, supposedly from a bank manager in Hong Kong. It amazes me that people like this go to such lengths!

A The letter you received comes from Mr Ling Huan, who claims to work for the Wing Lung Bank in Hong Kong. Well, the bank exists, but it seems Ling Huan does not – which is fortunate for him as China often executes fraudsters. According to his letter, a bank customer who shares your surname has died, leaving £6m unclaimed. If you pose as a relative to unlock the account, you are promised half the loot. "In the banking circle, this happens every time," Ling Huan assures you! But I happen to know that his letters are posted in Romford and he has sent identical offers to people with various surnames. Are we supposed to believe that lots of the bank's customers die, leaving unclaimed fortunes? If you did reply to the phone number or email address in the letter, you would be spun a yarn about cash being needed for taxes or legal fees – and since Ling Huan is just a poor Chinese bank manager, you would be expected to fork out. And, of course, you would never see your money again.

Q Reports say our banks are in trouble to the extent of £214bn if countries in Europe collapse financially. So where is best to save for safety? Are building societies immune? Have banks now ringfenced savers' money? Are fixed-rate bonds best?

A If by fixed-rate bonds you mean bonds issued by companies, rather than banks or the government, they are riskier. There is no compensation scheme if a company goes broke. It would take legislation to force banks to ringfence savers' money, so the answer to your question is no. And remember, if banks cannot use depositors' money, then they cannot pay interest either. Building societies are probably the safest of your options because they are less exposed to foreign risks. But frankly, if the euro collapses, it's a whole new ball game with unforeseen knock-on effects.

Q My son and his wife have a shared-ownership flat. They own 25pc and rent the rest from a housing association. He has asked me to lend them enough to buy a further 5pc. This will reduce their rent, and he says they can pay back the loan from the money they save, but would I have to pay tax?

A There would only be tax to pay if your son pays you interest on the loan. If he repays you nothing more than the amount you lent him then the taxman gets nothing.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. Neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

REGENERATION: Properties near Premier League grounds have risen in price by more than the national average. Homes near Manchester City's Etihad stadium have more than trebled in price over the past 10 years.

House prices top of the Premier League

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 editor

SECURING a place in football's Premier League is worth tens of millions of pounds a year – but it's not just the clubs that are benefiting from the riches of competing in the top flight.

Homeowners who live near Premier League grounds are also quids in, with the average house price in the vicinity of the top clubs rising by far more than the national average.

House prices across England and Wales have gone up 113pc over the past decade, according to the statisticians at Halifax. Yet prices in the 20 postal districts where Premier League teams are based have risen nearly 170pc – or by more than £220,000 – during the same period.

These properties were worth an average of £132,000 in mid-2001 but are today worth more than £350,000.

Moneybags Manchester City lead the way – house prices within the postal district of the Etihad stadium have more than trebled over the past 10 years. The regeneration that usually accompanies new stadia is likely to be responsible for many of the significant price rises.

Five of the six Premier League postal districts with the biggest house price increases are home to stadia built within the past 15 years.

As well as Manchester City, these clubs are Bolton Wanderers, Stoke City, Sunderland and Swansea City.

"In general, house prices in the areas that are home to many of the our major football venues have strengthened significantly over the past decade, reflecting in part the amenities commonly found in such locations, including good transport links," said Halifax economist Suren Thiru.

"The improvement has been particularly marked in the postal districts of some of the newest football stadiums with the local regeneration often associated with such projects helping to boost local property values."

In contrast, four of the five Premier League postal districts with the smallest house price growth are near grounds that opened before the end of World War One – Manchester United, Newcastle United, Queens Park Rangers and West Bromwich Albion.

But there are a couple of exceptions to the rule. Villa Park – the home of Aston Villa – first opened its gates in 1897, but nearby property has seen the second highest rise in prices over the past decade.

At the other end of the scale, Arsenal's Emirates stadium is the newest in the Premier League, yet local property prices are up just 102pc over the past decade – the third smallest increase.

EDF to pay back £200,000 after bill error

THE domestic power industry suffered another public relations problem this week when one of the Big Six suppliers said it would reimburse customers a total of nearly £200,000.

EDF Energy said it had found a fault with its automated telephone meter-reading system, resulting in some customers being overcharged between 2003 and 2010. Although EDF claimed that "in the vast majority of cases, the impact on customers has been minimal" – and some customers had inadvertently found themselves better off – it comes at a time when the industry is already under fire from consumer groups for putting up its gas and electricity prices.

Following the news of the meter-reading error, EDF said: "Naturally, we will not be looking to recover any money from those customers who have been under-billed, and of course have plans in place to fully reimburse those that have been overcharged.

"This figure totals just under £200,000 to be reimbursed across a total of 100,000 customers."

All affected customers have been notified.

K O S

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

THIS week we feature some disappointing news from one of the county's most established and prestigious businesses which was at one time a market leader.

The state of the economy is the reason given for its decision to cut the workforce, but Silver Spring is still positive about its long-term future.

We also highlight some happier stories – such as how a business vision honed to success in the Kent countryside has led to a link-up with legendary Hollywood director Martin Scorsese; the creation of a new dance venture in Ashford after successful voluntary work; and high-profile recognition for a Dover cross-Channel ferry-operator.

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Silver Spring axe to fall on up to 40 jobs as slump takes toll

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

UP to 40 jobs are to go at the Silver Spring soft-drinks plant in Folkestone as the company cuts back due to the poor economic climate.

A decrease in demand for the drinks is blamed for the losses, which will hit the workforce of just over 130. The exact number of redundancies has not been finalised, but a figure between 35 and 40 is likely.

Negotiations between management and workers continue, with factors such as flexible hours and seasonal demand being taken into account.

The company has battled back from being in administration and new lending agreements are in place. However, bosses say consumer lack of confidence has meant a drop in demand.

"In the current climate, people will more likely choose to drink tapwater than bottled," said chief executive Gary West.

"We do not know the absolute number of job losses, but I anticipate it to be between 35 and 40. This is a huge disappointment for us as we have turned the company around and have returned a profit after being in administration.

"We have secured funding from a lender, and an agreement on a 50-year lease for supplies from the water at Terlington Spring in Folkestone has also been reached.

"With an option for a further 50 years, this means our supplies are guaranteed for a century, which is obviously good news for our long-term strategy as our principal source of raw material is protected."

The workforce was told of the job losses on Thursday night during a bi-yearly meeting.

Mr West said: "These were difficult messages to have to put across as we have turned the corner with regard to finances.

"However, the current market saw a significant slowdown in June and July and up to this date in August.

"This, I think, is going to get worse due to the current state of the UK economy and so to weather the storm our business plan includes streamlining certain products and outsourcing some functions – the reason for the job losses.

"Another factor we have to take into consideration is that demand for our products is very seasonal, with summer demand in excess of the levels for winter."

GRIM NEWS: Silver Spring had rallied after coming out of administration but another downturn means that 35-40 jobs are to be chopped

The Silver Spring Mineral Water Company was established in 1888 at Grace Hill, Folkestone, moving to premises in nearby Foord Road two years later.

A series of mergers and acquisitions throughout the 20th century increased its market share, with brands such as Rola Cola and Bingo Pops – carbonated soft drinks in a plastic container drunk through a straw – proving popular.

By the turn of the century, Silver Spring Soft Drinks was the largest privately-owned independent soft-drinks-maker in the UK.

It was in family hands until September 2009, when its business and assets were acquired by Privet Capital and the transition made from Silver Spring Mineral Water Company to Silver Spring Soft Drinks Limited.

TRAVEL

The wheels on the bus take us away

EUROLINES has unveiled a new coach service linking Kent towns with Dunkerque, Ghent and Brussels.

The new service means that more than 100 European destinations are now available from Kent by coach, including Paris, Amsterdam and Bruges.

The Eurolines service picks up from locations including Canterbury bus station, Dover Eastern Docks and Hempstead Valley shopping centre before crossing the Channel.

John Gilbert, managing director, said: "We've designed this route to boost tourism in Kent through affordable, convenient links to some of Europe's best towns and cities. From Kent you can now reach more than 100 European destinations with Eurolines and we'll continue to strengthen our network over the coming months."

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said: "Eurolines is providing highly-accessible transport routes for more people to visit and explore the many cultural differences and similarities to be enjoyed."

LEARN A TRADE: The apprenticeship fair is set to open doors for all involved

JOBS

Set fair for employers and young prospects

AN Apprenticeship and Employment Fair is being held in Dover on Thursday, September 8, and employers in Dover, Deal and Folkestone are invited along.

The event is aimed at giving up to 1,000 young people the opportunity to find out about apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

Any company which has apprenticeship or other job vacancies suitable for 16- to 24-year-olds will be welcome.

The event will incorporate 'hands-on' exhibitions and interactive displays to encourage young people to apply for apprenticeships or other employment opportunities on the day.

Anyone with no apprenticeships but who would like to find out more about the benefits to their business is welcome to attend between 12.30pm and 1.30pm, when they can meet all the key delivery partners, including K College and Kent Apprenticeships.

Those interested can contact Kerry-Ann Miller at Dover Jobcentre Plus on 01304 866140 or email kerry-ann.miller@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

SPORT

Lydd airport eyes Olympic flights

WITH more than half a million sports fans expected to arrive in the UK for next year's Olympic Games, the Government has earmarked Lydd airport as one of the regional airports capable of handling flights carrying visitors.

A review of airports with suitable facilities within a 75-mile radius of the Olympic Park at Stratford has led to several airports being deemed as suitable to handle Olympics flights.

Lydd has been rated as capable of handling up to 238 general and business aviation flights during the peak period of the Olympic Games, from July 21 to August 15.

Philip Hammond, Secretary of State for Transport, said that as part of the strategy to ensure successful delivery of efficient transport for the Games, he was introducing measures to limit delays to flights by using airports in the South East during time of peak demand.

New rules will ensure that air-space capacity across Kent will be able to safely accommodate the maximum possible number of extra flights.

Ferry-operator's reward for cross-Channel efforts

RECOGNITION

THE DFDS Seaways UK passenger routes have been awarded with a prestigious industry accolade, beating fierce competition from other major ferry-operators.

Following an extensive consumer survey carried out in January 2011, the consumer body Which? has named DFDS Seaways as its only Recommended Provider for ferry travel.

In results, published in the July issue of Which? Travel magazine, DFDS Seaways scored above average in all aspects of the research, especially for ease of booking and value for money, and achieved an overall customer score of 72 per cent.

Chris Newey, director of passenger services for the DFDS Seaways English Channel route, said: "This is a fantastic endorsement from the UK's leading independent consumer body. We strive to deliver excellent customer service and value for money across all of our UK routes and are delighted this has been recognised.

"As part of our determination to continually improve, we encourage all of our customers to fill in customer-feedback forms, which we review on a regular basis and implement changes where necessary, so that our services will always be first-rate."

ACCOLADE: Chris Newey, of DFDS Seaways, says the operator bids to deliver excellent customer service

Recommended Provider status is awarded to those services that have performed to the highest standards in Which?'s rigorous testing and analysis.

The survey approached almost 6,500 consumers across the UK and it was the 33 per cent of consumers who had travelled by ferry within the last two years who were called on to answer questions about the ferry companies.

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Lights, camera, action

A series of happy coincidences led Stanley Wilson's lighting business, which is based in rural Blean, to land a job working on director Martin Scorsese's latest film, The Invention Of Hugo Cabret. By **Nick Ames**.

A UNIQUE business run from the depths of the Kent countryside has caught the eye of one of the world's top film directors, propelling what began as a hobby for Stanley Wilson on to the set of a likely Hollywood blockbuster.

A fascination with different forms of industrial lighting led to Wilson, 35, starting to acquire and trade them to other interested parties – including designers kitting out top stores and restaurants in retro-factory chic.

Demand became so great that he quit his job and formed a company called Urban Cottage Industries with partner Sophie Gollop, 28.

And a series of fortunate coincidences led to the newly-formed business working on Martin Scorsese's latest venture.

The acclaimed director of Goodfellas, Mean Streets, Taxi Driver and Raging Bull is branching out at present into a new style of cinema.

The Invention Of Hugo Cabret is set to be released this Christmas and is Scorsese's debut children's film – and his first in 3D.

It stars Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Christopher Lee, with Ali G and Borat comic Sacha Baron Cohen also taking a leading role.

The movie tells the story of a boy who lives hidden away in a 1930s Paris railway station and his adventures concerning his late father – and an early form of robot.

Wilson said: "It's a period film, although I can't say much more than that. But it seems the older lighting equipment helps to re-create the right look.

"It was a succession of coincidences which led to me becoming involved. Firstly, Scorsese's prop master was sitting in a restaurant we had helped to fit out – Caravan in Clerkenwell.

"He noticed the lights we had put in and asked about them – luckily the owner of the restaurant was in and he knew about us.

"The following day, his partner was going on the train to Edinburgh and she stocked up on magazines. One had a story on us. She rang him and told him, then the movie people got in touch.

"When I arrived at the station near the studios, there waiting for me was Martin Scorsese's own car and driver.

"That was when I thought that my business was going to be OK – I was rubbing shoulders with the right sort of people."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Stanley Wilson, of Urban Cottage Industries, which is providing lighting for famed director Martin Scorcese's first children's film – and his first in 3D

But Wilson is keen to point out that it wasn't always chauffer-driven limos in the months after he set up.

"The first year or so of the business I was always concerned," he said. "Now the contracts are coming in and everything is fine, but it was a risk to start out originally.

"I worked on lighting with bands such as Queens Of The Stone Age and in architectural lighting. But I wanted to do something more creative.

"Where I come from, in Yorkshire, there are a lot of old factory sites left to decay and the lighting is still in many of them. I managed to get hold of some different designs and put them on eBay.

"Others would see them and want to them as well and it just grew, to a point where demand was such that I couldn't cater for it while working a normal job.

"So, together with Sophie, I took the plunge. My first real break was when I was asked to equip the Levi's store in central London.

"The designers wanted an old factory-style look, so that is what I did. The real lighting for the buildings doesn't come from our fitting – those are hidden away. Although ours do produce light, they are all about the ambience of the place."

The company was originally based in Hackney, but the birth of a child and a need for more space meant a move to the countryside. Family connection provided a place in Blean, with space for a workshop to construct designs based on vintage lighting and shades, while the couple now live in Whitstable.

As well as restaurants and bars, further contracts came the way of the business – including the Second World War tunnels under Dover Castle, which have recently received a £2 million upgrade.

"I also worked on Danny Boyle's Frankenstein at the National Theatre with [Sherlock TV actor] Benedict Cumberbatch," said Wilson.

The couple are pleased with how the move to Kent has worked out.

"We thought it may spell the end of the business," said Wilson. "We wanted to bring up our child in the countryside, but the business we are involved in is Londoncentric.

"We used to get lots of people just dropping in and some business did come from those visits. We knew when we moved that would stop and it has.

"But what it has given us is far more time and we have far greater space. We are out of the loop in some ways, but we have filtered out a lot of wasted time on meetings and visits so we can spend more time on worthwhile projects.

"Much of our work is online and we have kept an 0207 number through Skype. So we look like a London company – but work in a rural paradise."

Time gentleman please as pub closes for £375,000 refit

REFURBISHMENT

LEYBOURNE pub The Old Rectory has called last orders before having a £375,000 transformation that will create 15 jobs.

The pub on Oxley Lane – which reopens on Tuesday, August 30 – is being transformed into a Fayre & Square establishment and will launch on Saturday, September 10.

To mark the opening, the company is seeking a local family who deserve a treat to officially open the pub.

There will also be a free family fun day from noon to 4pm for everyone to come along and be entertained by jugglers and face-painters.

Stewart Rayner, general manager of The Old Rectory, said: "I'm sure there are so many families within the community who are an inspiration to others through their voluntary work or who have overcome hurdles but don't get any recognition. So I would like to use our opening as an opportunity to say thank you by treating a family to VIP treatment, including a meal on us.

"I am also on the look-out for dynamic, hard-working individuals who want to be part of our Fayre & Square family at The Old Rectory."

The chosen family will go forward to a national final to crown the Fayre & Square Family Of T he Year.

Dancing with success

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

VOLUNTARY sessions at a Wye school being held by former professional dancer Marie Stacey have led to the setting up of a new dance studio in nearby Ashford.

Ms Stacey has appeared in cabaret shows in Spain and France but had retired when the request to help out at the school, which was attended by her niece, came.

Demand soon outstripped the available space and she began running classes at village and church halls.

The growing popularity of the classes convinced Ms Stacey to establish a new company, which she called Fit To Dance, and to invest in a warehouse in Henwood business park, Ashford.

She converted the building space into a dance venue with four studios, three of which have sprung floors, a large reception and offices.

The business successfully weathered the worst of the economic downturn by diversifying and is now thriving

DANCE PARTNERS: Ria Barlabas, right, of Barclays, with Fit To Dance-owner Marie Stacie during her visit to the Ashford studio

She said: "When I got involved in dance classes at my daughter's school I never imagined I would be here with 15 employees and a purpose-built facility.

"The company faced some challenges during the recession, with people feeling less well off and cutting the number of classes they took. Some even cancelled completely, but by broadening the number of options we have for customers and offering some of the studios for hire, we have been able to continue to thrive and I'm really confident about the future."

The company has 600 students, ranging from 18 months to 80 years old, and offers traditional dancing including tap, ballet, hip-hop, Irish and ballroom. Less conventional classes include zumba, belly-dancing and pole fitness, and the company has also expanded into gymnastics and singing classes.

Ria Barlabas, Barclays head of business banking, recently spent the day working alongside the company as part of a Back To Business initiative which will see all of the company's 1,700 business managers spending a day working with a business customer.

She said: "It was a great experience to get away from my office and spend the day with Marie at Fit To Dance. She has an excellent, diverse business and ambitious plans and I wish her every success.

"Learning more about our customers enables us to provide the right levels of support and advice when required.

"Every member of my team is committed to supporting the local economy and to helping customers survive, prosper and grow."

Can you support Olympic hopes?

BUSINESSES across the county town are being urged to back local athletes with the Olympics just one year away

With more than 30 athletes now in the spotlight on the Maidstone's Dream website, businesses are being urged to put their sponsorship in place to help bring home a medal.

Maidstone is the penultimate town to welcome the Olympic Torch Relay before it reaches London.

The website was set up in 2009 to help create a lasting legacy for the 2012 Olympics.

Thirteen athletes have already been offered financial support from businesses and all athletes have been offered support in the way of free gym memberships.

One athlete who is tipped for huge success is decathlete Martin Brockman. Last year he brought home a bronze medal from the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

The latest addition to the website is 21-year-old kayaker Aaron Jordan. The full-time unpaid athlete has been in

POTENTIAL: Decathlete Martin Brockman, won bronze at the Commonwealth Games

the sport for 14 years and just needs £500 to help pay for a Garmin and new paddles.

Leanne Brown, 22, who is also a kayaker, has also been added to the website.

She said: "I would be willing to help advertise and promote a business who sponsors me in different ways, such as on my boat or paddles, and be extremely grateful of their help."

■ **Anyone who like to sponsor an athlete can visit www.maidstonesdream.co.uk to see the athletes' profiles.**

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Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Bright sparks given flying start in energy

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

ENERGY provider UK Power Networks is investing in its future by funding the training of more than 50 young workers.

The firm is currently training 36 apprentices from a site in Sundridge, Sevenoaks, and also has 11 recruits enrolled as trainee engineers on its engineering development programme, and nine on its graduate development programme.

Seventeen members of staff recently completed a foundation degree in power distribution from London South Bank University, including Rochester resident Neil Barton.

Neil passed his degree with distinction after completing about 20 exams in power distribution, maths, electrical engineering and physics, and will start a bachelor degree in electrical and electronic engineering later this year.

He said: "To be given the time to focus on university studies was brilliant, and without that support it would have been very difficult to gain this qualification. It is a relief to have a good degree behind me and it's an important step in my career.

"Being an engineer is such an intellectually demanding career and the complexities of the electricity networks keep me interested.

"I like the diversity of my role – jointing underground cables, high voltage substation installation, and live line work.

"There is also scope to move around the business and work in new areas."

Neil joined UK Power Networks in 2002 and initially worked in the Maidstone call centre before becoming a trainee designer and later a trainee engineer. Now based in Canterbury, he is responsible for carrying out power upgrades and new or altered electricity connections across Kent.

UK Power Networks chief executive Basil Scarsella said: "These graduates will play a pivotal role in the renewal and expansion of our power networks, which distribute electricity to homes and businesses across a quarter of Great Britain.

"They can look forward to an exciting future in this industry.

"Delivering the reliable power supplies our customers need depends on skilled staff with a highly professional approach.

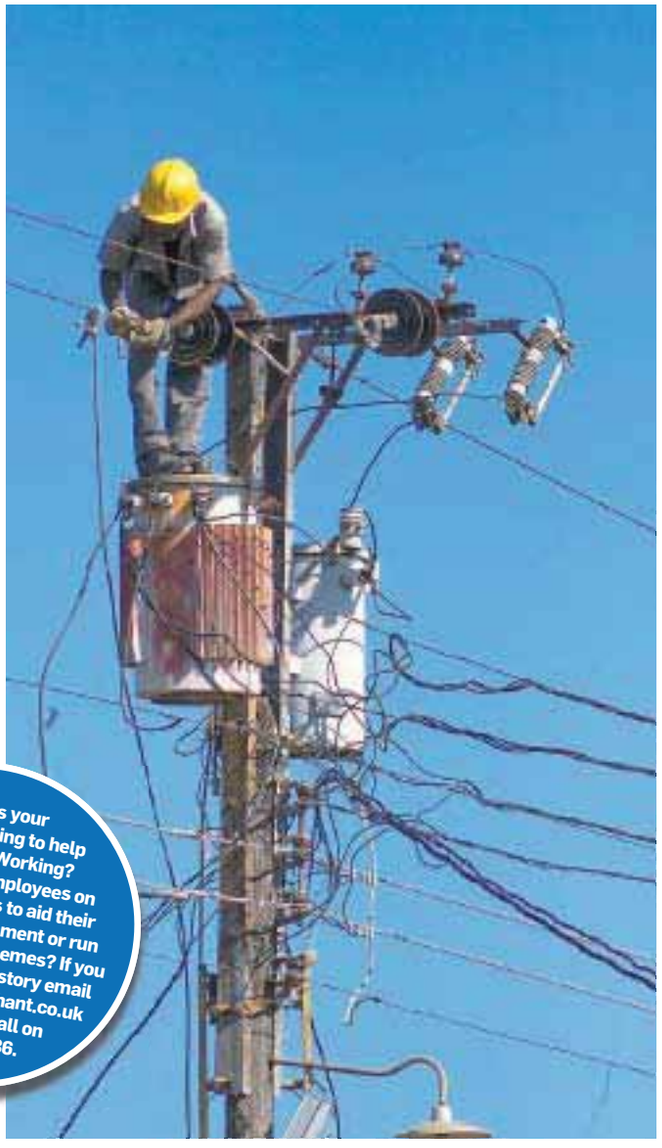
"We have put a lot of effort into recruiting and developing the next generation of engineers. Often working behind the scenes, their job is vital – keeping electricity supplies flowing to millions of people."

Meanwhile, students from Dartford Grammar School for Girls took part in an npower Enthuse day of activities held at Littlebrook Power Station near the Dartford Crossing.

The programme is designed to inspire and engage pupils aged 12-14 in science, technology, engineering and maths, and to help them think about the impact they have on our daily lives.

Power station manager Nigel Staves said: "It's our opportunity to give young people an insight into the energy industry. I hope we have inspired some of them to consider this as a career option for the future."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.



HIGH LIFE: UK Power Networks says it is constantly on the lookout for young talent

Apprenticeship scheme takes off

THE first new apprentices have been taken on under an employers' incentive scheme by Thanet College's Training Solutions division.

The initiative provides grants of up to £2,500 to any business taking on a new apprentice who has been receiving benefits.

Age Concern Deal is one of the first organisations to sign up to the programme, having taken on Kerrie Stewart as a new health and social care apprentice.

Chief executive Debbie Wonford said: "Age Concern Deal believes in giving younger people opportunities to gain work experience and a recognised qualification.

"Training Solutions has really helped us take advantage of this extra fund to care for our service-users and provide new jobs for enthusiastic young people."

Training Solutions' Penelope Kimber added: "Apprentices provide a real boost to a business by bringing in an energetic, enthusiastic young person in a cost-effective way."

Call 01843 821580 for more information.

EU funding to aid new businesses

THE Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs has won a grant worth up to 44,000 euros from the European Union's Interreg fund.

The cash will help explore the creation of a new support network to help young businessmen and women in the county aged 15-18.

Charity director Paul Barron said: "This funding is essential for the development of another Kent Foundation service.

"With our partners in Nor Pas de Calais, the intention is to research how we might create an appropriate support network that, ultimately, might extend across the Channel.

"All our existing services are based on research and this is another fantastic opportunity to support Kent's youth.

"All too often young people are disillusioned by the lack of career options – get a job, go to university or join the growing number of unemployed – and we are determined to give Kent's young people a fourth option of becoming an entrepreneur."

Visit www.kentfoundation.org for more.

Train & retrain

sponsored by KENT ADULT EDUCATION

New bursary scheme for students struggling to get by in tough times

BROMLEY College of Further and Higher Education has announced a range of bursaries to help students with financial problems.

Funding of £1,200 per year will be guaranteed for students aged 16-18 on August 31 who are also in care, leaving care or receiving benefits.

All other students can also apply if their parents are on certain benefits.

Principal Sam Parrett said: "In times of hardship when jobs are more difficult to come by and families' budgets are tighter, it is really important the lifeline offered by training and education should be kept open to school leavers.

"We are having to make a lot of difficult decisions about spending at the moment, but the whole senior management team was in no doubt that we should make some money available to help finance students."

The cash provided by the college will cover about 80 per cent of essential course costs including materials, textbooks, examination fees, CRB checks, course-related trips and registration fees.

The college – which officially incorporated Orpington College earlier this month – also offers a hardship fund whereby all full-time students aged 16-18 can buy a £10 Oyster photo card and travel free throughout the capital at any time.

Why it's never too late to swap careers

A MASTERS graduate who quit the RAF to study as a pharmacist has reassured others who feel it is too late to change careers.

Jenny Hawley, 28, from Walderslade Woods, near Chatham, joined the air force at 19 but decided to leave four years later despite having finished school without any A-levels.

She said: "I knew you couldn't practice as a pharmacist in this country without the full masters degree but I couldn't bear the thought of spending an additional two years studying A-levels. Then I realised they can be done in a year at MidKent College.

"The intensive A-levels route was definitely not the easy option. It was sheer determination that got me through it I think.

"It was a real shock to the system, especially as I'd left school at 16, and I think I must have driven my tutors insane but they were all really supportive.

"It was hard work but the intensity of the learning stood me in good stead for my degree. The masters was by no means a doddle."

After scoring two As and a B in chemistry, biology and environmental science at MidKent College's Maidstone campus, Jenny went on to study for her masters at the Medway School of Pharmacy – a joint collaboration between the universities of Greenwich and Kent at Medway.

She left with a first class degree and also received the Biological Science Award for her final-year dissertation, written following four months' research at the University of Lille in France into inflammatory bowel conditions.

INSPIRED: Jenny Hawley is an example to all

Jenny said: "I think it's important people realise they can change their careers if they want to. Yes, it will be difficult but it will be worth it in the end.

"I feel lucky that MidKent College offered me a first step on an alternative route, and that I could complete the masters degree so close to home. The people of Medway have access to a brilliant college and some great universities on their doorstep, and they should make the most of the opportunities that can bring."

Award-winning museum to offer training in building conservation

THE Weald and Downland Open Air Museum is running a series of training courses in specialist building conservation techniques.

Experts in brickwork, ironwork and timber construction will deliver the one-day sessions, with a number of places reserved for people who live in the Weald Forest Ridge area stretching from Tonbridge to Horsham in West Sussex.

The first course takes place on September 5 at a cost of £40 per person, and is entitled 'An introduction to timber-framed buildings and their conservation'.

Led by former museum director Richard Harris and carpenter Roger Champion, the session will also include a tour of the repairs of the museum exhibit buildings.

The other courses include 'Repairs to historic brickwork' on September 6-7, 'Conservation of ironwork' on September 28, and 'Practical scarf repairs' on September 29-30. All two-day sessions cost £80 per person.

Based in Singleton, West Sussex, the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum runs a well-established programme of day schools and longer courses in historic building conservation.

It recently won a prestigious European Union Prize for cultural heritage in the category of education, training and awareness-raising.

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WE are looking forward to hopefully having another successful year. We are continuing to expand Loch Associates and looking forward to our new partner, based in our London office, joining us shortly.

This is an exciting and positive development which reflects our view of the employment law sector. In a similar way we hope more businesses will start to recognise the value of outsourcing their human resources requirements to enablise's experienced HR consultants who take away any HR headaches.

We work with local suppliers and we have a number of local clients. Many are seeing a positive improvement in the economy with some having been astute and restructured their businesses so that they can benefit as much as possible from an improving economy.

LOCH ASSOCIATES
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enablise

Shiralee Riddell, Manager

AS Manager for the Pilgrims Hospices Lottery, my whole focus is on our future.

The future of the Pilgrims Hospices relies upon the generosity of the local community. We have to raise over £9 million every year to keep providing care and support for terminally ill people living in east Kent.

Pilgrims Hospices Lottery provides a sizable amount of our annual income. Due to the continued support of our members we have been able to donate £5 million towards the work of Pilgrims Hospices in the 15 years we have been running.

My day revolves around our existing members and encouraging new members to join. A typical day involves dealing with membership enquiries, payments for those that play by paying cash to our collectors and those that play online via the website and by standing order.

We have a large established Collecting and Canvassing team covering east Kent picking up existing membership payments and offering new people the chance to join. I meet with them regularly so I'm often travelling around the area. The lottery team ensure that the draw takes place at 9am every Friday morning. Players can win anything from £5.00 to £20,000 in our rollover draw. All winners cheques are posted automatically and larger cheques are often hand delivered. Making the call to the weekly £2000 winners and the bigger rollover winners is great. There is often a lot of squealing and excitement on the other end of the line and even more when we arrive at their front door!

Pilgrims Hospices celebrates its 30th Anniversary next year.

Please help us celebrate and ensure your local Pilgrims Hospice future by joining the Pilgrims Hospices Lottery today. It is the local Lottery that really does make a difference.

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Pilgrims Hospices

WE have been providing high quality services for people with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and their families since 1989. We offer individual, tailor made, person centred, solutions of support for adults through our living and day vocational and lifeskill services.

Our team has a wide range of expertise and we provide consultancy services that aim to empower people with ASC through providing specialist assessments and training for the people who work with or support them.

We have a Family Support Service offering advice and information for people with ASC, their families, carers and the people who work with them.

The Kent Autistic Trust is a registered charity, a non-profit making organisation that is a Company Limited by Guarantee;

Our services are accredited by the National Autistic Society;

The Trust has achieved Investors in People Status.

Call us on 01634 405168 or email: office@kentautistic.com to see if we can help.

The founders of the Trust aimed to create an organisation that could be used by and be of benefit to people with ASC and their families. The scope, direction and expansion of the Trust's activities is and will continue to be driven by these needs.

The Kent Autistic Trust is established as a company Limited by Guarantee. It has no shareholders and is non-profit making. Membership is by subscription and is open to all persons with an interest in Autism.

The Trust is also registered as a Charity and is subject to the regulations of the Charity Commission.

Kent Autistic Trust

Ownded and operated by:
Lyn and Sarah Norman with Harry Deering as Operations Manager
Company:
Pilgrims Corner Group
Location: **Herne Bay**
Business Type:
Provide Residential Homes, Fairlight Glen Independent School and a Fostering Agency

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T: 01227 370808
E: info@pilgrimscorner.co.uk

PILGRIMS Corner Group is owned and operated by Lyn and Sarah Norman with Harry Deering as Operations Manager. Based in Herne Bay Pilgrims Corner provide Residential Homes, Fairlight Glen Independent School and a Fostering Agency.

Staffing has never been an issue with people still in employment since the inception of the company. The young people we take care of have built lasting relationships which is extremely important to them for their future.

Our thoughts for the future are;
to continue providing the best quality of care possible to some of the most vulnerable young people in our society today.

Young people are our future and it is our responsibility to help them to grow and flourish with the help and guidance needed.

We are currently recruiting more Foster carers in Kent and would welcome any enquiries from families considering fostering, especially experienced carers.

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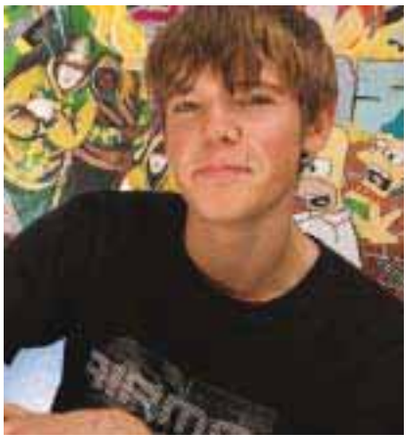

Training

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SafetyCO UK

ISO Management Training? You know it makes sense...

David Hall
Managing Director (ISO Consultant)

MAKING businesses more efficient in the micro to SME sector is what Businessflow does.

Businessflow provides the experience to assist your company in implementing and gaining accreditation to those important ISO standards ISO 9001 quality, ISO 14001 environmental to your business particularly if you are "tendering" for new work. We have helped many companies in Kent and nationally to successfully implement and attain ISO accreditation. Success has been built upon trust and consistency of service delivery with a 100% business success rate in ISO accreditations nationally.

By applying **SIMPLE** steps we help companies from business start-up through the SME sector in both private and public sectors.

Businessflow is certified to 9001:2008 and an ACP BSI (British Standards Institution) consultancy.

"The key to success is via training and awareness"

So what is it all about?

ISO stands for International Organisation of Standardisation. In complying with ISO standards, a company must say what it does through documentation and processes, do what it says through action, and prove it to an independent third party.

The training uses accelerated learning techniques including a blend of workshops and interactive sessions to ensure that you fully understand the subject.

From our own experience, we know how important training is to a company. We have seen first hand what the difference proper training means to small and large companies. Delivering services of high quality consistently is a challenge for any company. The companies that value their employees know that competence building is an investment that pays off. Investing in your employees will also attract new talents that you wish to recruit as it makes your company an attractive place to work.

ISO training covers the following areas :-

- Management systems development and implementation.
- Internal auditing and improvement.

Businessflow runs workshops to support small businesses in the understanding and use of standards. These workshops enable companies to quickly gain knowledge on the latest standards and best practice and assess the benefits for their business sector.

The training course is designed and delivered to help you understand all areas of quality and environmental management and its importance in securing future business and stakeholder confidence.

This comprehensive introduction will provide the skills to share knowledge and ensure your company starts off in the correct way.

Course learning objectives and benefits

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- Gain an overview of assessment and certification procedures
- Advance your continuous professional development - (see grant option at foot of article)

So what do our clients think?...

"The training, implementation support and professional approach that Businessflow provided us during our ISO 9001 & 14001 implementation was second to none. The implementation was to time and budget. They deliver to promise every time"
Danny Gladwyn – MD Correct Contract Services Limited

Help with the costs – are YOU missing out?
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Invicta Telecare, part of the Circle Group, is the largest independent provider of Telecare services in the UK. We provide vital 24-hour telephonic and personal support to elderly and vulnerable individuals. Helping people to live independently in their own home is at the heart of everything we do. We currently have the following opportunities based in Borough Green, Kent.

invicta Telecare

Telecare Installer

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Permanent, 37 hours per week **Ref: 2338/K**

We are looking for a self motivated person to join the new Partnership Team as a Telecare Installer, to operate an effective and efficient installation service for Invicta Telecare. This will include a range of duties from clerical and installation of equipment and stock management.

To meet the challenges of this role you will be a good communicator and have previous experience in an administrative role, good organisational and IT skills, the ability to prioritise your own work load and be able to manage conflicting deadlines. Knowledge of Telecare and Telehealth equipment is desirable.

The successful candidate will be required to work on a rota basis, between 9am to 8.30pm, including weekends.

Appointments are subject to satisfactory criminal record clearance, a criminal record will not necessarily preclude you from employment.

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£13,699 per annum pro rata plus £3,900 per annum pro rata for overnight work
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Are you committed, an excellent communicator, and possess basic computer skills? If so, you could join our team and help make a difference to people's lives.

These are exciting opportunities that could suit your home commitments. A range of full and part time hours are available working across a rota system covering Monday to Friday 4.30pm to 7.30am and Saturdays/Sundays 7.30am to 7.30pm.

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(rising to £16,493 per annum upon successful completion of your probation)
Permanent, full and part time hours available **Ref: 2369/K**

Are you committed, an excellent communicator, and possess basic computer skills? If so, you could join our team and help make a difference to people's lives.

These are exciting opportunities that could suit your home commitments. A range of hours are available including during the daytime, evenings, weekends and at night. In particular we require cover for early morning, late afternoon and weekends.

A full UK driver's licence is desirable as you may be required to perform first on site duties.

Appointments are subject to satisfactory criminal record clearance, a criminal record will not necessarily preclude you from employment.

Closing date for all posts: 9am 30 August 2011. Assessment date for all posts: 6/9 September 2011.

To apply please visit **www.circle.org.uk/corporate/careers** and complete an application form. If you are unable to complete your application online please write quoting the relevant reference number to: **Resourcing Officer, Circle, 6 Central Avenue, Norwich NR7 0HR** and we will send you an application pack. Unfortunately we are unable to accept CVs.

Circle values diversity and encourages applications from minority groups.

Enhancing Life Chances INVESTORS IN PEOPLE Part of Circle

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Property Media Consultant

South West Archant, the UK's largest independent regional publisher is seeking a highly self-motivated individual to be part of a small focused team dedicated to promoting it's all new homes24-co.uk portal service, now powered by leading portal technology platform Zoopla, to estate and letting agents.

Ideally the candidate will have UK residential estate or lettings experience with knowledge of property portals being a distinct advantage. The post will require a high degree of visiting agents at their premises and therefore the individual should be willing to travel and be able to demonstrate exceptional customer relationship management skills.

The position is geared to home based working, basic salary, uncapped commission, car allowance or company car.

To apply please email your CV to: martin.cunningham@homes24.co.uk by Friday 19th August

homes24.co.uk your local property portal

For further information and opportunities visit www.archant.co.uk

Archant is a national media group which publishes four daily newspapers, around 85 weekly papers, 75 monthly magazines and 120 websites, from offices all over the country. Archant is striving to be an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

ARCHANT

SLIDEROBES®

Showroom Demonstrator

- Location: Aylesford Maidstone
- Job Type: Part Time, Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4, Bank Holidays.
- Categories: customer service, demonstrator
- Closing Date: 31/08/2011

Description
SLIDEROBES® goal is to make its customers happy by helping them transform their space. Our products are value-for-money, expertly designed and tailor-made for our customers' needs. We work together to deliver the friendliest, least hassle and most professional service in the market for our customers.

We are seeking a Part time Showroom Demonstrator to join our Maidstone showroom team.

Role Responsibilities
The role involves:

- Being the first point of contact for customers when they visit or call the showroom.
- Identifying customer needs and demonstrating how SLIDEROBES® storage solutions can meet these, aiming to secure qualified home-design appointments for the team of Designers.
- Working to the SLIDEROBES® standards to ensure that we deliver the friendliest, least hassle and most professional service in our market.

Essential Criteria
Personal profile:

- Previous experience in demonstrating or selling is desirable, but not essential. You will need to have a friendly, out-going personality and be genuinely interested in people.
- Naturally, good, all round communication skills are required.
- We have a strong team working ethos in our business so you will need to be an organised, focused team player, willing to go the extra mile to ensure the team achieves its goals.
- You will be confident in using basic IT (we will give you great training in how to use our systems).
- You will need to be flexible in your approach to work, willing and able to work weekends and Bank Holidays.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a growing business, who will invest time and money in your personal development to ensure you are fully equipped to help make our customers happy.

Interested? Forward your CV for immediate consideration to: Maidstone@Sliderobes.com marked for the attention of Paul Devlin or send by post to Unit 3c Deacon Trading Estate, Forstal Road, Aylesford ME20 7SP

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Children's Home- Residential Care Workers

LCS Ltd is recruiting for dynamic and experienced **Residential Care Workers** and **Assistant Managers** in our homes in Kent and Margate.

Ideal candidates (RCW) will have:

- Proven experience, working with young people who display challenging behaviour and emotional difficulties.
- An NVQ 3 in Health and Social Care- Caring for Children and Young People or be willing to work towards.
- Robust, Resilent and Reliable characteristics.
- High motivation, with a good level of flexibility.
- The ability to cope with and remain calm in very challenging and demanding situations.
- Excellent communication skills as you will be liaising with Social Workers, Clinicians, Police, Families, OFSTED and other professionals dealing with Looked After Children.
- A full UK Driving License.

Ideal candidates (Assistant Manager) will have:

- Detailed knowledge of relevant childcare legislation and Care Standards.
- Thorough knowledge of Ofsted Regulations.
- Strong leadership, management and communication skills.
- NVQ 4.

Shift work over 40 hours + 2 sleep-ins per week, therefore a high level of flexibility is required.

In return for your skills and knowledge you will receive a competitive salary, excellent holidays and paid continuous training and development.

All positions are subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure. Expense will be met by the employer.

For all enquiries please contact Amanda Manning on **01304 379280.**

Commercial Manager

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of Estimators & Quantity Surveyors working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector. With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback. Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to
Mr Ron Twyman Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP *or e-mail* ***ron@piperwindows.co.uk.***

PIPER FITS FIRST TIME

pilgrimscorner

Pilgrims Corner Group require enthusiastic and motivated Residential Care Staff, capable of undertaking service identification and delivery in meeting the ongoing welfare and developmental needs of up to 12 dynamic young people. You must have a minimum of 12 months proven residential work experience with young people and knowledge of the Autistic Spectrum is useful.

As a professional team group member you must as an individual be: reliable, motivated and committed to our development of expanding services for young people. We provide ongoing training and support, regular individual quality supervision and we encourage and support positive practice.

You will need to be flexible and able to work hours on a rota system, including evenings, weekends, bank holidays, plus sleep-in duties. It is a requirement that you hold a full current driving licence.

Posts available:

Senior Residential Support Workers

Bank Staff

For an application form please contact:
Harry Deering (Operations Manager)
Tel: 01227 370808
Email: admin@pilgrimscorner.co.uk

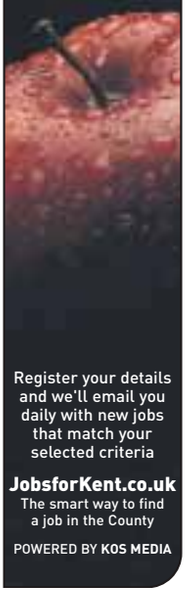
Pilgrims Corner expects all of its employees to have full commitment to the Equal Opportunities Policy and acceptance of personal responsibility for its practical applicants. All employees are required to comply with and promote the policy to ensure that discrimination is eliminated.

Experienced Cook (maternity cover) and 2 Night Staff

Required At
Care Home in Deal

For more information please call
The Deputy Manager On
01304 372312

Find teaching jobs online



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pilgrimscorner

Do you have a space in your family for one of our children?

We are currently recruiting people from all backgrounds to provide a safe and secure home for children of all ages who are not able to live with their own families.

Do you have:

- A good sense of humour
- Optimism
- Lots of patience
- Resilience
- A spare room

In return we offer you:

- The opportunity to make a real difference to a child's life
- Ongoing support from our committed and experienced staff team
- Training opportunities including NVQ 3 in Children & Young People
- Financial reward and maintenance of £415 per week

Please call 01227 283 696

Sales Executive, Kent

ARCHANT LIFE

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join Archant Life part of the UK's largest independently owned publishing company.

Working from home, a highly presentable, self-motivated Field Sales Executive is sought for our Kent Life title

For this varied role you will need to work efficiently under pressure and be able to demonstrate good communication skills whether by telephone, face-to-face or in written form. Good administrative, IT and organisational skills are crucial to this position.

You will be required to work closely with your fellow team members. You will also need to be passionate about the county of Kent.

In return Archant Life offers a competitive basic salary with commission structure and pension scheme.

All applications should be emailed to Hayley Tiptaft as described below

Closing date is 26 August, 2011

Send your completed application to

Hayley Tiptaft,
Hr Officer,
Archant,
Prospect House,
Rouen Road,
Norwich, NR1 1RE

CL Fabrications

Skilled fabricator for workshop - Fabricating stairs, balustrades and structural steelwork, must be able to work from engineering drawings to a high standard. Experience in TIG stainless steel welding an advantage.

Skilled site fitter/welder - Must be able to work to a high standard installing stairs, balustrades and structural steel. Driving license and CSCS card essential

Workshop Foreman - To oversee the busy workshop, applicants need to be self motivated, have good man management skills and experience of structural steelwork and architectural metalwork. Must be able to work from engineering drawings. Experience in stainless and aluminium would be an advantage.

Good rates of pay and overtime available.

Apply in writing to the following address, fax or e-mail:

CL Fabrications Ltd
Buildings 95/96 Gillingham Gate,
Chatham Docks, Chatham,
Kent ME4 4SW

Email: ian@clfabs.co.uk
Telephone: 01634 819787
Fax: 01634 891809
Web site: www.clfabs.co.uk

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Internal Sales

T-mex Limited, based in Leeds Village,
Nr Maidstone have a vacancy for an internal sales person.

Key responsibility will be the processing of sales orders which will necessitate liasing with customers & suppliers.

The successful applicant will have good communication skills and will be computer literate.

Some knowledge of mechanical engineering would be preferred but not essential as training will be provided.

Applicants should forward their CV's to **info@t-mex.com**.

Sub Contractors, Painters Required

For External Paint Job Must Be Self Sufficient With Own Tools, Transport & Insurance

Contact 07786000200

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www.thomsondirectories.com/distribution

Text CANT to **07786 208008**

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AutoCad Design Draughtsman

Local Metalworks Fabrication Company requires an experienced AutoCad Design Draughtsman.

Structural and Architectural steelwork experience essential along with ability to site survey.
It is important to be able to work as part of a small team with an ability to discuss everyday projects within the company, liaise closely with the Works Manager on drawings and be able to converse confidently and have clear discussions with clients, architects and engineers.

A permanent position offering
good future prospects to the right candidate

Salary: £25k
20 days Holiday plus statutory days

Please apply in writing or via email
with CV and Covering Letter to:

David Richardson
Email: drichardson@coleironcraft.co.uk
Cole Ironcraft Limited
Ashford Road, Bethersden, Kent, TN26 3AT

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Concession Manager REF: 304
Full time, up to £16,000 per annum + bonus

Supervisor REF: 305
Part time (30 hours), up to £6.60 per hour

Sales Assistants REF: 306
Part time (6 to 16 hours) up to £6.20 per hour

BENEFITS: Staff Discount & Generous Holidays

To request an application pack please telephone our 24 hour recruitment line quoting the relevant reference number

0871 22 11 123

Calls to this number will cost 10p per minute from most land lines and will last no longer than 5 minutes, though some network providers, and mobile operators may charge more.

Ground Workers req

for New Romney, near Folkestone.
CSCS, Passport & visa must be provided.
Call 01277 810777

Drain Layers req

for New Romney, near Folkestone.
CSCS, passport & visa must be provided.
Call 01277 810777

Faversham Residential Home
Care Assistant Require A Domestic Assistant

To Work The Hours 9am-2pm
Subject To CRB Approval

For Furthur Information Please Contact
01795 532629 Between 10am-4pm

ARCHANT

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED

VACANCY

Company Accountant

The Kent & East Sussex Railway is a heritage steam railway operating between Tenterden and Bodiam. We are a major tourist attraction with around 100,000 visitors p.a. The company is a registered charity with an annual turnover of over £1.7m, a small salaried workforce and about 500 volunteers.

Due to retirement, the Trustees are seeking to recruit a Company Accountant. The position is for three days a week, plus a monthly weekend day to attend the Company's Board meetings. The ideal applicant will be a qualified accountant, well versed in the preparation of monthly and annual accounts, familiar with Sage Accounting, Payroll, VAT and Gift Aid and will be able to liaise with the Company's Bankers and Auditors.

Please apply in writing to Graham Baldwin, General Manager, The Kent & East Sussex Railway Company Ltd. Tenterden Town Station, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HE, with a detailed curriculum vitae and a covering letter indicating how you meet our job specification.

Closing date for applications: 8th September 2011

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are looking for

Trainee SALES PEOPLE

in the **Kent and Sussex** area.

If you are looking for excellent rates of pay, a company vehicle and good prospects with full training provided call us now on

0800 848 8507

Community Nursing Care Agency are now recruiting

Male & Female for specialist 1-1 community team supporting children and adults in the community with complex needs

Must have experience in working with people using the principles of positive behaviours support

For more information or to send your details please contact Zoe
zoe@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk
01233 619530

Care Assistant

required for Cumbria House Care Home.

Must be flexible as will be expected to work day and night shifts.

24 hours per week minimum.

Post is subject to Criminal Record Checks.

Please contact Julia or Cathy on **01303 254019** for more information.

Faversham Residential Home

Care Assistant Required

For Full Time To Work On Rota Basis
Subject To CRB Approval
For Furthur Information Please Contact
01795 532629
Between 10am-4pm

Aerial Satellite Engineer

Clear Picture are looking to recruit an aerial/satellite engineer to work full time within our small dedicated team.

We are currently expanding our commercial operation and thus you will need to have a good understanding of IRS.

Full clean driver's license is essential.

Full job specification email CV to
recruitment@clear-picture.co.uk

St Margaret's Nursing Home

We are a reputable nursing home, adjacent to Hythe Canal.

One full time qualified RGN

Required for 25 bed home.
Subject to POVA CRB check.
Please contact Anna on **01303 267557**
Email: **asastmargarets@aol.com**

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

LECTURER FOR AIR CABIN CREW

A new position is available for the post of Lecturer in Air Cabin Crew. The successful applicant will be expected to raise aspirations, develop skills and deliver quality across a range of courses in the Business, Admin and Tourism Programme Area.

Salary Scale: £19,365 - £22,858 for 28 hours per week, all year

LEAD LEARNING SUPPORT PRACTITIONER

To lead a team of Learning Support Practitioners in a specific vocational or academic area.

Salary Scale: £13,941 - £16,474 for 37 hours per week, 38 weeks per year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 24th August 2011

Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination

Westlands Academies Trust

THE WESTLANDS SCHOOL
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 1PF

LESSON SUPERVISOR

Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471 (pro-rata)
(equal to £12,516 - £13,766 depending on experience)

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 25 days paid holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a similar post.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 31 August 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust
Company No 7344732

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www.recruitmentsense.com

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REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition companylooking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

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Teachers Needed

Primary, Secondary and SEN.

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Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871
or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Production Arts — *Ref: P0510*

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week Medway Campus

We are seeking an experienced and knowledgeable Lecturer to join our Production Arts department. The successful candidate will have an all-round knowledge of the technical elements of theatre and experience of teaching lighting and sound to students in Further or Higher Education. Teaching on our Level 3 Production Arts pathway, they will contribute fully to departmental productions and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Learning Support Assistants — *Ref: LSA01*

Hourly Rate: £9.38 per hour Variable hours (minimum 15 hours per week)
Medway & Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to recruit Learning Support Assistants to support students throughout the department in the implementation of additional needs. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a manner to support the changing needs of students ensuring differentiation is implemented within the classroom and have experience of supporting young adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 2 September 2011

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from **www.midkent.ac.uk**. Alternatively, please e-mail **job.applications@midkent.ac.uk**. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on **01634 383102** (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

MidKent College

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS AND BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR430 / MT46

IN THE PARISHES OF LEIGH & HILDENBOROUGH

Public Footpath SR430 / MT46

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath SR430 / MT46, between the junction of SR430 and SR431 (NGR TQ 551 466) and the junction of MT46 and MT47 (NGR TQ 566 472) from the 8th September 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 24th September 2011.

The path will be closed because works are planned on the footbridge over the A21 (Tonbridge Bypass) and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact
Mrs Nicky Biddall

VILLAGE GREENS - BOROUGH OF SWALE

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by the Minster Parish Council under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 3rd October 2011. Please quote reference VGA632**. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green

An area of land of approximately 1.2 acres (0.4 hectares) in size, known locally as Scrapsgate Open Space, situated to the west of Scrapsgate Road and occupying an area between the sewage pumping station, the Minster Marshes and Ridney Hill Farm in the town of Minster-on-Sea on the Isle of Sheppey.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS BROADSTAIRS CRICKET GROUND (AND SURROUNDING WOODLAND) AT PARK AVENUE IN BROADSTAIRS AS A NEW VILLAGE GREEN

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector has been appointed by the Kent County Council to hold a non-statutory Public Inquiry into the above application and will attend at:

The Broadstairs Campus of Canterbury Christ Church University, Northwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 2WA

On Monday 12th September 2011 at 10.00am

To hold a public local inquiry into the application

A copy of the Inspector's directions setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at: www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

Any person wishing to attend the Public Inquiry to give evidence who is not already being called as a witness by one of the parties, must notify the County Council of his intention to do so, and provide a signed and dated written statement setting out the substance of his evidence no later than 4pm on Friday 2nd September 2011.

For further enquiries, please contact Miss Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 21st August 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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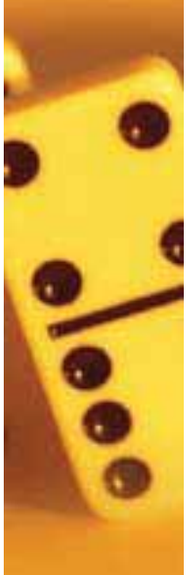

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PLANNING

Public Notice

21 August 2011

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Canterbury City Council
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Sections 69 and 70
Variation of the Broomfield; Canterbury; Eddington; Ickham, Wickhambreaux and Seaton; and Reculver Conservation Areas

NOTICE IS GIVEN under the provisions of the 1990 Act that Canterbury City Council has determined that the areas described in the Schedule to this Notice are areas of special architectural or historic interest, and that it is desirable to preserve or enhance their character or appearance. It has accordingly amended the Broomfield, Canterbury, Eddington, Ickham Wickhambreaux and Seaton, and Reculver conservation areas so as to include or delete the areas defined in the Schedule below. These variations were made in the context of preparing and adopting a conservation area appraisal and management plan for each area.

Schedule

The following properties and land are to be included in the extensions to the following conservation areas:

Broomfield: The following properties have been included in the Broomfield conservation area: numbers 157 to 176 Margate Road; and area of farmland approximately 70 metres wide to the north and east of Goldfinch Farm.

The following properties have been removed from the Broomfield conservation area: number 92 Margate Road and all of the houses forming Bramley Gardens and Spicers Field.

Canterbury: The following properties have been removed from the Canterbury city conservation area: 255 Wincheap (Dunelm Mill and Carpet Right and associated car parks); and 1 to 12 (consecutively) Woodville Close. The following properties have been removed from the Canterbury (Nunnery Fields) conservation area: 2, 2a, 4, 6 and 8 Cromwell Road, 1b South Canterbury Road.

Eddington: The following properties have been removed from the Eddington conservation area: numbers 2 and 4 Pigeon Lane, 1 to 13 (consecutively); The Links and 1 to 36 (consecutively); Ryder Close; and the car park and pond at the Herne Bay Golf Club. The revised southern boundary of the conservation area follows the northern side of the A299 Thanet Way.

Ickham, Wickhambreaux and Seaton: The following properties have been included in the Ickham, Wickhambreaux and Seaton conservation area: 4, 5, 6, 7 (Foxhollow) 8 and the Old School House on School Lane; 1 to 12 (consecutively) Treasury View; the meadow to the north of Treasury View (some 263 x 432 metres in area); the meadow between the eastern side of the Street in Ickham and the hamlet of Seaton; Altona, Morville, Crab Apples, Wychwood, Pippins, Brambletye, Sunnyside, Field View and Nether Quaives on Grove Road, Wickhambreaux; Birchways, Flagstones, Hallowes and Cross Dykes on the Street, Wickhambreaux; and Firstone, Southern Down, Twynings, Fair Lawns, The Old Rectory, List Cottage, Springtime, I and 2 Glebe Cottages, Wistaria, Little Quaives, Southview, Wickhambreaux Lodge and Hawthorn Bungalow on the List, Wickhambreaux.

Reculver: The following area has been removed from the Reculver conservation area: numbers 1 to 17 (consecutively) Blue Dolphin Park, Reculver Lane to the south west of Reculver House.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/DA/0294/2011 - Proposed development at Rowhill School, Woodview Campus, Main Road, Longfield, Kent, DA3 7PW.

Rowhill School is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the provision of an additional vehicular access. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

KCC/TM/0360/2011 - Proposed development at Cleansing Service Group Ltd, Quarry Wood Industrial Estate, Mills Road, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7NA.

Cleansing Service Group Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for development of a Hazardous Waste Transfer Station.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SW/0309/2011 - Proposed development at Sheldwich Primary School, Lees Court Road, Sheldwich, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0LU.

Kent County Council is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for retention of a mobile classroom unit. The proposed development is within the Sheldwich Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a Listed Building.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

KCC/SW/0364/2011 - Proposed development at Highways Depot, Canterbury Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8LY.

Kent Highway Services is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the erection of a Salt Barn. The proposed development is adjacent to the Preston-next-Faversham Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Faversham Area Office, Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

KCC/DA/0350/2011 - Proposed development at Pinden Quarry, Green Street Green Road, Dartford, Kent, DA2 8EB.

Pinden Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for a variation of conditions 5, 6 and 16 of planning permission DA/07/1 (as amended) to allow modifications to phasing and soil storage arrangements and to increase the depth of excavation and resultant landfill of part of the northern extension. The application is accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development may not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Environmental Scientifics Group, The Oasts, Newnham Court, Bearsted Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5LH so long as stocks last, at a charge of £100.00.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 21 August 2011

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/02322/HOUSE 2 The Gables Brenchley Road, Brenchley
- Front porch (LB)

11/02225/HOUSE West Barn Ploggs Hall, Capel
- Multi fuel stove in the living room, with flue on side elevation and extending 600 mm above the roof ridge (LB)

11/02226/LBC West Barn Ploggs Hall, Capel- Listed Building Consent
- Multi-fuel stove in the living room, with flue on side elevation and extending 600 mm above the roof ridge (TW/11/02225/HOUSE refers) (LB)

11/02350/FUL The Schools At Somerhill Somerhill, Capel
- New link road within the school grounds (LB)

11/02358/FUL Heathervale House 2 - 4 Vale Avenue, Culverden
- Proposed roof extension to provide nine apartments with new entrance extension to front elevation and retention of office use (CA)

11/02342/FUL Bakers Farm House Barn Ladham Road, Goudhurst
- Change of use of barn to self catering holiday accommodation (alternative scheme to planning permission TW/09/03736) (LB)

11/02324/FULMJ Maidstone & District Bus Station Rye Road, Hawkhurst
- Variation of Condition (5) of Planning Permission TW/10/02328 (Demolition of the former bus station and erection of single storey A1 retail unit with ancillary car parking for 82 vehicles, including 3 disabled and 3 parent/child parking spaces) - Hard surfaced area to be of a porous nature (CA) (MAJOR)

11/02171/FUL Spelmonden Farm Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden
- Extension of Time - Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to B1 business use (TW/08/02224/FUL refers) (LB)

11/02310/FUL Capel Cross Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden
- Demolition of existing stable building and replace with timber stable building and open fronted 2 cars garage, hay store and garden store. Equestrian training ground and landscaping treatment (LB)

11/02343/HOUSE Furnace Mill Farm Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst
- Two-storey side extension and conversion of single kiln oast into a three-bedroom annexe ancillary to the main house (LB)

11/02347/LBC Furnace Mill Farm Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst
- Listed Building Consent- Two-storey side extension and conversion of single kiln oast into a three-bedroom annexe ancillary to the main house (LB)

11/02209/FUL 27B The Pantiles Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Retrospective - Installation of new boiler with new external flue in new location (CA) (LB)

11/02210/LBC 27B The Pantiles Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: To retain installation of new boiler with new external flue in new location already carried out (LB)

11/02355/FUL The Cumberland 3 Cumberland Walk, Pantiles & St Marks
- Retention of electricity generator and enclosure for a further 12 month period on planning permission TW/10/04037/FUL (CA) (LB)

11/02234/HOUSE Wilderness Mews Pembury Road, Park
- Refurbishment of mews cottage including minor alterations and replacement of all window and door joinery (CA)

11/02164/LBC Old Place Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Replace rotten timber sash windows with like for like single glazed sash windows in hardwood to front elevation (LB)

11/02271/FUL The New Swan Queen Street, Sandhurst
- Single storey extensions to front and rear, alterations internally, removal of tile-hanging and replacement with upvc weatherboarding, fenestration, fascia alterations, extension of parking area (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town HallRoyal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 20 August 2011

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1067/N - 1, LOWER STREET COTTAGES, LOWER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RR - Erection of a single storey side extension, a single storey rear extension and a front porch, plus new block paving to frontage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1071/N - 31, BREWER STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1RU - Conversion of three flats to six flats including single storey rear extension and external alterations, including alterations and additions to roof and fenestration. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1091/S - CHARTER HOUSE, CHART CORNER, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3SB - Listed building consent (retrospective) for insertion of rooflight to flat roof element at rear and conversion of cellar to additional living accommodation including the room being tanked. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1142/S - 17, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AP - Change of use from existing class A1 retail use to a dwelling (class C3) with garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1156/S - 3, SALTS FARM COTTAGES, SALTS LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BD - Erection of a single storey rear extension, replacement front door, reconfiguration of entrance steps and alterations to boundary wall. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1157/S - 3, SALTS FARM COTTAGES, SALTS LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BD - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey rear extension replacement front door, reconfiguration of entrance steps and alterations to boundary wall. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1163/S - 4, CHURCH HILL COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AX - Insertion of a front dormer window. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1208/S - BLY COURT MANOR, CHAPEL LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AN - Alterations to front elevation including removal of first floor render and rebuilding of ground floor brickwork, plus erection of a single storey link extension and conversion of outbuilding to breakfast area including installation of two rooflights. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1214/S - WALNUT COTTAGE, CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NR - Replacement windows and doors to side and rear elevations. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1219/S - BLY COURT MANOR, CHAPEL LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AN - An application for listed building consent for alterations to front elevation including removal of first floor render and rebuilding of ground floor brickwork, plus erection of a single storey link extension and conversion of outbuilding. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1224/N - 22, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Change of use from class A1 (retail shop) to Class A2 (Estate Agent). **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1229/S - 1 AND 2, CHURCH STREET, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6RB - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 2 retail unit and 9 self contained flats at 1 Church Street and alterations to 2 Church Street. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1242/S - LINSTONE, EAST STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RB - Conversion of existing double garage into additional living accommodation with first floor extension over. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1249/N - WRENS NEST, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AP - Erection of a single storey garden/hobbies room with link to main house. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1250/N - WRENS NEST, HEADCORN ROAD, GRAFTY GREEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2AP - An application for listed building consent for the demolition of an existing outbuilding and erection of a single storey garden/hobbies room with link to main house. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1269/S - THREE TREES, THE STREET, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1DX - Outline application for the erection of 2(no) dwellings including detached double garage and associated works with access, layout and scale to be considered at this stage and appearance and landscaping reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **4th September 2011** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: **21st August 2011**

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/00922/FUL: 45-47 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SW Change of use from office to nine apartments with associated alterations and erection of five dwellings. **Applicant: GGT Properties** Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA//11/00923/CAC: 45-47 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SW Demolition of the existing buildings to facilitate redevelopment of site. **Applicant: GGT Properties** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//11/01147/LB: Flat 3, 9 St George's Terrace, Herne Bay, CT6 8RG Installation of gas service pipe. **Applicant: Mrs Baker** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01262/FUL: Woolton Farm Barn, Woolton Farm, Littlebourne, CT4 5EA Change of use from agricultural to farm shop/plant centre (Class Use A1/A3.) **Applicant: H Mount & Sons Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01273/LB: The Island House, 1 Chartham Corn Mill, Ashford Road, Chartham, CT4 7NY Installation of flue. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Dr and Mrs C Powell** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01300/FUL: 82 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JQ Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Smith** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01301/FUL: 197 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3TP Two-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs Keem** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01302/FUL: Deanery Farm, Bolts Hill, Chartham, CT4 7LD Erection of summerhouse. **Applicant: Mrs Day** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01303/LB: Deanery Farm, Bolts Hill, Chartham, CT4 7LD Erection of summerhouse. **Applicant: Mrs Day** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//11/01306/FUL: 3A Woodlawn Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HG Erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Gurstang** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01309/FUL: 80-84 Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SB Installation of ATM and two anti-ram bollards. **Applicant: Tesco Stores Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01310/FUL: Unit 5, Deanery Farm, Parish Road, Chartham, CT4 7LD Change of use from B1 to D1 (reflexology). **Applicant: Mrs Day** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01316/LB: Church of St Gregory the Great, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, CT1 1QU Internal alterations. **Applicant: Canterbury Christ Church University** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01352/LB: 55 to 57 Barton Mill Road, Canterbury, CT1 1BP Change of roof material to parapet roof. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Curtis** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01365/FUL: Cedar Grove, Park Lane, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5HY Erection of timber gates. **Applicant: Mr David Hurley** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 12 September 2011.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 19 August 2011

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

GRANARY COURT ROAD, SMEETH - (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Granary Court Road, Smeeth, on or after 22 August 2011 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Plain Road and Pound Lane.

WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, on or after 11 September 2011 from 8.00 am until 8.00 pm.

Bridge Street, Wye will be closed at the Level Crossing.

There will be no access for through traffic from Harville Road / Bramble Lane into the village of Wye.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road and Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

CHARTHAM LEVEL CROSSING, CHARTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Network Rail engineering works at the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chartham Level Crossing, Chartham, on or after 11 September 2011.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 11 September 2011 at 2.00 am until Monday 12 September at 2.00 am.

Station Road, Chartham will be closed at Chartham Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A28 Ashford Road, Shalmsford Street, Bolts Hill, Parish Road and Church Lane

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GREENHILL BRIDGE ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footbridge refurbishment works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting northbound traffic on B2205 Greenhill Bridge Road, Herne Bay, on or after 10 September 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed northbound (except for service buses) between the junctions with Sea Street and A2990 (Old) Thanet Way.

The alternative route is via A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, Canterbury Road, High Street, Avenue Road and Sea Street.

Southbound traffic is unaffected.

A further closure is provisionally planned for 23 October 2011.

ST DUNSTAN'S LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Dunstan's Level Crossing, Canterbury, from 11 September 2011.

It is planned St Dunstan's Street will be closed at the level crossing from Sunday 11 September 2011 at 0.50 am until Monday 12 September 2011 at 3.30 am.

The alternative route is via St Dunstan's Street, London Road, Rheims Way and St Peter's Place.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

CHURCH HILL, STONE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Church Hill, Stone either side of Stone Level Crossing.

The Order will become effective on 5th September 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence between Sunday11th September 2011 01.00 and Monday 12th September 2011 03.00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Church Hill, Stone Place, London Road, St Clements Way, A206, Station Road, Crossways Boulevard, Charles Street and Church Hill

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Network Rail works

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

HIGH STREET, EASTRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Eastry, on or after 24 August 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Woodnesborough Lane and the village car park.

The alternative route is via Sandwich Road, Statenborough Lane, Gore Lane, Mill Lane and High Street.

LUCERNE LANE, MARTIN MILL, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential railway bridge repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lucerne Lane, Martin Mill, Dover, on or after 5 September 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for a distance of approximately 20 metres either side of the bridge.

The alternative route is via The Street, East Langdon Road, Hollands Hill and Station Road.

It is planned that the works will be carried out between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm each day, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

ST GEORGE'S ROAD & WEST STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling works in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St George's Road & West Street, Deal, on or after 22 August 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

WEST STREET will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St George's Road.

ST GEORGE'S ROAD will be closed between the junctions with West Street and High Street.

The alternative route is via Duke Street, (Union Road in reverse), High Street, Stanhope Road and West Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, EWELL MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Ewell Minnis, on or after 23 August 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

BELSEY LANE will be closed between the junctions with Warren Lane and Greenwich Lane.

GREENWICH LANE / NEWCASTLE LANE will be closed between the junctions with Belsey Lane and Red Barn Lane.

The alternative route is via Warren Lane, Ferne Lane and Newcastle Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A249 DETLING HILL/SITTINGBOURNE ROAD AT DETLING/THURNHAM) (TEMPORARY 50MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any speed greater than 50mph on the northbound carriageway of Detling Hill/Sittingbourne Road between the existing permanent 50mph speed restriction 407 metres north east of its junction with Scragged Oak Road to the Detling Aerodrome Approach Road

The order shall come into operation at times when required as indicated by signage on site on 27th/28th/29th August 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PARK ROAD, MARDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Park Road, between Five Oak Lane and Thorn Road on or after Monday 5th September 2011 when required for a period of up to 3 months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Pagehurst Road, Five Ash Lane, Five Oak Lane.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a water main. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Anthony Kavanagh on 01634 276117.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Maidstone & Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(SOUTH STREET ROAD, WEST WOOD ROAD, YELSTED ROAD, COX STREET, MAGPIE LANE, STOCKBURY & HARTLIP) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Monday 5th September 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

SCHEDULE

Road Name: South Street Road, Stockbury
Extent: Hill Green Road to Chalky Road
Dates: Start: 5th September 2011
End: 6th September 2011
Diversion: West Wood Road, Hill Green Road

Road Name: West Wood Road, Stockbury
Extent: Plum Tyree Lane to South Street Road
Dates: Start: 7th September 2011
End: 9th September 2011
Diversion: Hill Green Road, Yelsted Road

Road Name: Yelsted Road, Stockbury
Extent: Yelsted Lane to West Wood Road
Dates: Start: 12th September 2011
End: 13th September 2011
Diversion: Hill Green Road, Plum Tree Lane, West Wood Road

Road Name: Cox Street, Stockbury
Extent: Yelsted Lane to White Hill Road
Dates: Start: 14th September 2011
End: 16th September 2011
Diversion: Southbound traffic: White Hill Road, Matts Hill Road, Matts Hill, Yaugher Lane, Magpie Lane. Northbound traffic: Yelsted Lane, Yelsted Road, Bimbury Lane, Aerodrome Approach, A249 Detling Hill, Scragged Oak Road, Cox Street

Road Name: Magpie Lane, Hartlip
Extent: Cox Street to Cox Street
Dates: Start: 3rd October 2011
End: 21 October 2011
Diversion: Cox Street

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for a mains laying scheme. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Ben McKellar on 01634 276117.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CHURCH STREET, SHOREHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Church Street, Sevenoaks between Shoreham Place and Darenth Way.

The Order will become effective on 22nd August 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A225 Shoreham Road, A225 Station Road, High Street, Pilgrims Way West, Twitton Lane and Filston Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new electrical supply.

OAKDENE ROAD, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Oakdene Road, Sevenoaks between side of 2 Oakdene Road and 69 Bradbourne Vale Road.

The Order will become effective on 22nd August 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Oakdene Road and A25 Bradbourne Vale Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway overlay.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

IVYCHURCH ROAD, SNAVE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the Highways Agency to safely work on the adjacent A2070 Trunk Road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ivychurch Road, Snave, on or after 5 September 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

Ivychurch Road will be closed to west-bound traffic at the junction with the A2070, preventing traffic joining the A2070 at this point.

The alternative route is to continue north on the section of Ashford Road which passes Manor Farm then join the A2070 approximately 0.6 miles further north.

Traffic entering Ivychurch Road from the A2070 will be unaffected.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

CLOCKHOUSE LANE, BOUGHTON-UNDER-BLEAN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access for telegraph pole renewal, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clockhouse Lane, Boughton-under-Blean, on or after 8 September 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Selling Road for a distance of approximately 400 metres.

The alternative route is via Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

ALL SAINTS AVENUE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to connect an inspection chamber to the waste water system, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on All Saints Avenue, Margate, on or after 5 September 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Arlington House.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road and All Saints Avenue (note there is a 12' 9" height restriction on this road).

NASH ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the excavation of trial holes in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Nash Road, Margate, on or after 22 August 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside 1 & 2 New Cottages. There will be no through access between the junctions with Star Lane and Shottendane Road.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Haine Road, Margate Road, Ramsgate Road, College Road

Southbound via Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road, Ramsgate Road, Margate Road and Haine Road.

PROSPECT ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Prospect Road, Birchington, on or after 5 September 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 25.

The alternative route is via Kent Gardens, Surrey Gardens, Minnis Road, Station Road and Prospect Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Prospect Road, between the junctions with Station Road and Westfield Road, will be suspended.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(MOUNT PLEASANT AVENUE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mount Pleasant Avenue between numbers 64 and 74 on or after Wednesday 7th September 2011 when required for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are complete.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for a new connection. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Richard Rogers of Clancy Docwra on 01634 276090.

Tumblefield Road, Plaxdale Green Road.

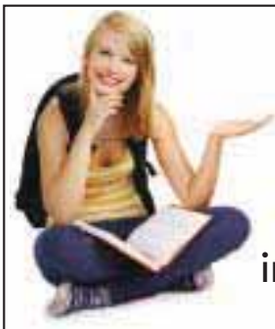
South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install pipework. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Anthony Kavanagh on 01634 276409.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 21st August 2011

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council



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BIRTHS

BEAL
Anthony and Joni Beal are delighted to announce the birth of their son Harrison Anthony Beal at Maidstone Hospital on 14th July, 2011.

EDWARDS
Harry Ronald Edwards born on the 11th August, 2011, weighing 7lb 10oz, at the William Harvey, Ashford.

HAMMOND
Stephanie and Martin Hammond celebrate the birth of their son, Blake Scott Hammond, born on the 9th August, 2011.

NWACHUKWU
I thank God for answering my prayers. I wish her the best in life.

REBBECK
Lee and Sam of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their second son, Oliver Miles William, on 18th July, 2011. Baby brother to Harrison, who is looking forward to all the fun they are going to have together. xxx

SAMBROOK
Candice and Mark celebrate the birth of their son Ollie Robert Sambrook on 6th August, 2011, weighing 5lb 14oz.

SANDFORD
Nicholas and Lorraine celebrate the birth of their son Teddy on 27th July, 2011.

WHITE
Megan Elizabeth White born on 26th July, 2011, weighing 7lb 4oz. Daughter to Claire and David White in Dartford.

DEATHS

KEETCH
Andrey Margaret peacefully passed away in her sleep aged 85 years on Saturday, 6th August, 2011, at Withens Nursing Home. Rest in peace.

LUTZ
Audrey Gertrude Lutz of Ramsgate passed away peacefully at home with her loving husband Ken, on 3rd August, 2011. Forever in our hearts.

PALMER
Derek Palmer, retired Fire Officer of Birchington, passed away on 12 August, 2011. Enquiries to Co Op Funeralcare, Birchington, 01843 846633.

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Women Seeking

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HI I am Marie, a pretty middle aged lonely divorcee missing male company seeking love and laughter with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373003**

PATRICIA 62, blonde, green eyes, 5ft 3ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372485**

CHARLOTTE 30, sweet French female, long legs, sporty, fit and healthy, seeking well built, fit guy to share interests and show me new ones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372687**

BEAUTIFUL nurse slim size 10, brunette, just looking for a bit of fun and good times with understanding nice younger man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372685**

MONICA 35 attractive black female seeking genuine white male up to 65yrs who can appreciate good times with a lovely lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372683**

FIT female 39, enjoys good conversation, laughs and walking bare foot in the grass, WLTM similar male for tactile friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372663**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

SOCIABLE cuddly 70's lady, GSOH, N/S, likes cinema, days out, coast, seeks genuine male for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369297**

I'M Gorgeous, lively seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, good times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easygoing, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097**

CAROLINE size 16, seeks kind, honest, loving gent, 45 plus for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371099**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

AFRICAN female, likes cooking, travel seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386712**

DONNA 47, bubbly, caring, loving, seeks genuine, loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370863**

VERY good looking Turkish female looking to meet male 29-45 for fun friendship. Looks/race/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370183**

ATTRACTIVE N/S 52yr old female, likes walks, countryside, pubs, companionship for meals out, holidays and sunshine, any buttons pressed in East Kent area, please call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372917**

47YR old female, slim, seeks tall male for relationship. West Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372783**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. Eltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

KATHY attractive single mum 25, slim, dark hair/eyes, fed up with being alone, looking older male for mutual TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372661**

EM attractive lady, mild mannered, nice nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659**

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181**

CONFIDENT fun female bored of spending time alone, looking for fun man to share lots of laughs and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370177**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

48YR old female, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, holidays, coast, seeks male, 48-50, preferably a smoker for LTR. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365955**

ATTRACTIVE petite oriental female with no ties WLTM nice respectable man for a loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371577**

CONFIDENT and cultured lady, young 39, very attractive, slim and fit seeks mature male, 45-65yrs for wining, dining and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371575**

36YR old professional, blue eyes, blonde, smiley, OHAC WLTM special guy for nights in with lots of cuddles and love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371549**

LYNNE slim, scatty blonde, mid 50's, looking for some fun and company. Margate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386428**

CARING female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369593**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501**

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415**

FUN female 35yrs looking to let her hair down seeks easygoing N/S guy for a relationship, 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368001**

SINGLE confident black female 32yrs, very attractive, loves doing fun and interesting things, seeking a real man. Any race/age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367999**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

FOLKESTONE lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, medium build, likes walks, good food, seeks caring, affectionate male, large build to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371399**

BRIGHT bubbly chatty brunette with lots to offer to the right person looking for new love who will appreciate a real woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371579**

NAUGHTY but nice female, tall, blonde, blue eyes, seeks elderly male, 75-85 for friendship and good fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372311**

BUBBLY reliable woman, lots to give, 5ft 6ins, seeks tall professional male with lots of TLC for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372003**

30'S female, easy-going, laidback, animal friendly, looking for that special person to share things with, any age/looks. Hope you call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372233**

DEBS petite brunette, 38yrs, well travelled, loves food and good wine, WLTM affectionate male for nice times. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372219**

YOUNG looking petite female prepared to try anything once, looking for similar open-minded tactile guy for fun loving times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372217**

TALL slim auburn haired sincere female. 37, looking for genuine fun relationship with open-minded male, 40-65yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372055**

34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**

FED up with lonely nights in! 33yr old brunette with green eyes WLTM someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**

BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**

22YR old leggy blonde, seeking likeminded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

BEAUTIFUL size 10 figured female, brown hair, big brown eyes 41yrs looking for relaxed relationship with man, 20-38yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370091**

ATTRACTIVE slim professional 35yrs seeking similar lonely professional for drinks/meals out and mutual friendship out of hours. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370089**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

ELIZABETH loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603**

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366725**

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723**

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same, give me a call, lets get together. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366721**

TALL blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, seeks male for good times. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366705**

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159**

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

ATTRACTIVE mature, outgoing Caribbean female, seeks interesting companion for socialising, good conversation and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367799**

YOUNG 60 something female looking for friendship only with likeminded ladies for meals out, nights out and holidays. Feltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367625**

PETITE brunette, blue eyes witty and fun, looking for similar kind, laid back male to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368407**

YOUNG very fit brunette 23yrs, likes to look good, seeks similar sporty guy for some relaxed fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368405**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

WANTED. Nice sincere man, 45-55 looking for LTR with kind, sincere female, dark hair, 5ft 6ins, likes wining/dining, pubs. Welling. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369417**

BEAUTIFUL stunning young female, 21, seeks older, retired gent 70 plus to take care of her. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368187**

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde who enjoys the simple life seeks understanding older male for fun casual relationship/friendship initially, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371547**

SICK of always taking life so seriously, looking for uncomplicated fun times with happy outgoing male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371545**

LISTEN up! Attractive female, WLTM male into music, films, sport and theatre. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367971**

CONFIDENT blue eyed brunette, intelligent, cultured and attractive, very solvent, looking for happy older male who will let me look after him. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368401**

30YR old beautiful blonde with lovely green eyes looking for uncomplicated love and romance with a tall dark haired male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368003**

ATTRACTIVE slim 52yr old female, seeks N/S companion, 52-60 to share countryside, walking, swimming, days out, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369179**

JACKIE petite attractive, brown hair/eyes, many interests, OHAC, looking for sincere male who also likes good food and wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370123**

COUNTRY loving lass seeks country fella for pleasant weekends down on the farm. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370121**

WELL grounded 25yr old attractive female, seeks similar male up to 40yrs for mutual friendship and meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370117**

FEMALE 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207**

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215**

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985**

FIT lady, 65, thinks she's 40, N/S, loves life, seeks genuine gent, 60-70 N/S for happy loving, exciting times. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353111**

SINGLE mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999**

OLD fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192**

GORGEOUS lonely lass, 45, looking for some romantic liaisons with younger male, looks important, no chancers. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415**

MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357**

57YR old lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665**

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075**

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

TANYA 35, Canterbury, brown hair/eyes, no ties, likes nights in/out, cuddles, TLC, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387220**

SUE 54, tactile, loving, fun, seeks genuine, loving guy to share good times. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373321**

VALERIE fun loving, late 60's, widow, slim, blonde, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, meals out, looking for similar male for relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373205**

LORNA 66, loving, 5ft 4ins, seeks similar gent, 60-70. Hythe. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387162**

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

26YR old Indian princess looking for discreet older N/S professional male to make life a bit more interesting and share mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373089**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

CAROLINE 31, Attractive, slim but curvy brunette, witty and fun, seeking relaxed, male for fun times together. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373007**

NATALIA attractive, brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380918**

LISA 42, medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days in/out, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817**

OUTGOING sincere 5ft 6ins lady WLTM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share lifes adventure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357959**

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655**

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527**

GENUINE loving female, 40, seeks loving male, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345487**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimmish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757**

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305**

26YR old social pretty blonde with baby blue eyes, seeks outgoing, fun, spontaneous male for friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369219**

AFFECTIONATE female seeks warm hearted kind guy, if he exists, for good conversation, fun times and laughs. 40-67yrs **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369197**

SHY brunette 22, perfect size 10, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, own car, seeks male to cosy up with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369193**

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291**

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961**

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 9ins. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005**

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INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for fun times. Hackney. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861**

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358721**

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, European, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will take care of me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277**

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KEVIN tall, athletic, good looking guy, 58, fashion conscious, seeks adventurous, well presented lady for friendship, maybe more. Any age. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373331**

IAN loving 46yr old, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, 5ft 11ins, GSOH, easygoing, likes music, walks, pubs, animals, seeks similar slim-medium build female, 30-48 for LTR. Hastings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373307**

IAN 51, likes pool, cinema, walking, seeks nice female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387180**

DEREK looking for Lorna who left the wrong contact number. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373203**

DANIEL 60, good looking, medium build, clean shaven, seeks broadminded female for discreet fun. Sandwich. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387170**

SEAN tall good looking gent, seeking nice lady in the Kent area for days out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373139**

PATRICK 62, likes walks, cooking, gardening, restaurants, music, seeks N/S partner, 45-60 for new life together. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373129**

NICK 35yr old white male, 6ft 4ins, muscular, looking for white female, large but curvy. Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373073**

DAVID confident, tall, fun loving Canterbury guy, likes travel, outdoors, reading, seeks female, 35-45 for friendship and good times. Canterbury, Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373041**

62YR old male, no Tom Cruise, active, likes fun, trying to get life back together after wife died in 2002. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372979**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, loving, easygoing, likes holidays, music, theatre, countryside, walks, bowling, seeks female up to 60 for friendship, maybe more. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387058**

JACK 33, likes nights in/out, country drives, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372645**

JOHN retired widower, seeks female for friendship. Redhill. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372581**

FUN loving professional male, 42, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for relationship. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387032**

DAVID 49, blue eyes, seeking fun loving lady for kisses and cuddles, lets have fun together. SE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372433**

FRED young 72, seeking female, 60 plus for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372933**

THANET male 53, 6ft, seeks slim-medium build female, 45 plus to take away the lonely times and share TLC together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372849**

YOUNGISH 49yr old dad, like wining/dining, days out, seeking an attractive female for LTR. Dover. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372171**

RICHARD 70, 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks nice, N/S lady, 60-70 for loving relationship. Herne Bay. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372157**

66YR old lonely man, seeks new partner for new life in Cyprus where I live. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372131**

38YR old male, olive skin, loving, caring, likes animals, walks, countryside, seeks blonde, slim lady, 25-35 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386396**

FIT young active 65yr old male, medium build, dog owner, likes countryside, seeks similar active lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369011**

37YR old male, 6ft 7ins, blue eyes, dark hair, GSOH, seeks female. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368969**

RON retired, active, feels 40, seeks white lady for friendship, maybe more. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368945**

PROFESSIONAL male, 62, generous, fun loving, seeks non assertive lady for special relationship. Farnham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367191**

DAVID 58, its Spring and I am looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

PAUL 56, decorator, 5ft 8ins, cropped hair, attractive, genuine, kind, likes theatre, pubs, seeks female, 50-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366935**

ADVENTUROUS attractive young man, 30's, great personality, seeks mature female to share happy loving moments, laughter and amazing spiritual summer. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367973**

LEWIS 40, seeks nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367713**

DAVE own hair/teeth, own car/business, likes holidays, golf, gym, meals out, theatre, seeks honest, genuine, slim female with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367559**

SLIM easygoing, friendly male, 50, likes kisses and cuddles, seeks petite female, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385904**

DARREN 39, 6ft 3ins, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368807**

ALAN seeks young lady to love me for who I am in a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372033**

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

LATE 60's male, honest, kind, 5ft 9ins, many interests, seeks loving lady for LTR. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371919**

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DAVID 43, 5ft 8ins, good looking, fit, seeking local man for fun. West Malling. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372319**

ADE 35, seeks older dominant male for fun times and role play. Gillingham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372189**

TALL blond, non scene gay hunk, 28, seeks older, solvent gent 75 plus for friendship/relationship. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368141**

ANDREW 35, likes nights out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368661**

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Monaco's famous harbour

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SEE PAGE 59

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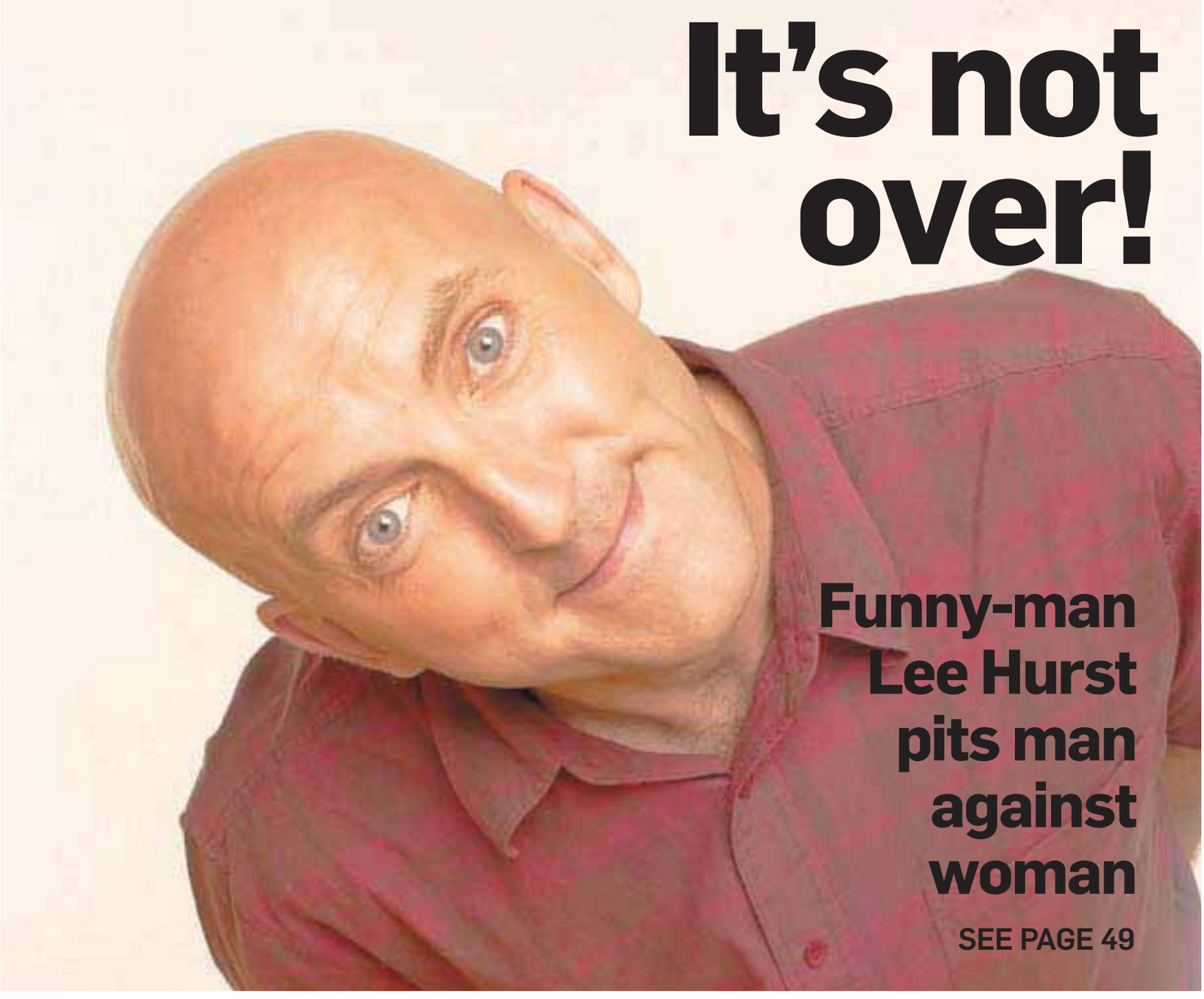
SEE PAGES 64-65

Kent Weekend



It's not over!

Funny-man Lee Hurst pits man against woman

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PLUS: Are we burying ourselves under a mountain of rubbish? - **talking point p50** Uncovering the secrets of town's Roman villa - **kent remembered p51** Sharan gets a makeover as Volkswagen reviews its people-carrier - **driving p73**

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THE INTERVIEW

Lee Hurst

It's all fun and games for Lee

Joe Bill talks to comic Lee Hurst, star of 90s TV hit They Think It's All Over, who promises more mayhem during his all-new Man v Woman tour

MORE than 10 years since he quit iconic panel show They Think It's All Over, comedian Lee Hurst is heading back out on tour with a show that could return him to the little screen.

The Man v Woman tour is the London comedian's first outing for a couple of years, but its tried and tested format from his live show has already been a smash hit at Hurst's Bethnal Green comedy club FymFyg.

"The show is basically split into two halves," he said. "The first bit is stand-up where I get the audience warmed up a bit and I scope out the room. By scope out the room, I mean I am looking for audience members who will be good if they take part in the second half.

"I look for people with a bit of spark or are a bit lively and make eye contact.

"After the interval, it becomes the Man v Woman show. The lights go up and I pick out two people who are going to come up on stage with me for the remainder."

Hurst places his show firmly in the hands of his two choices, a man and a woman, who will then take on his quiz to earn votes from the crowd.

"I put specific questions to both of them and there are also tasks for them to complete. It is all to highlight how men and women act and think differently in certain situations."

And Hurst, 49, is not worried by the risk factor of picking out over-zealous punters.

"The more they get involved with it, the better it works. If you get someone up there who rolls with the jokes they can raise the roof and become the star of the show."

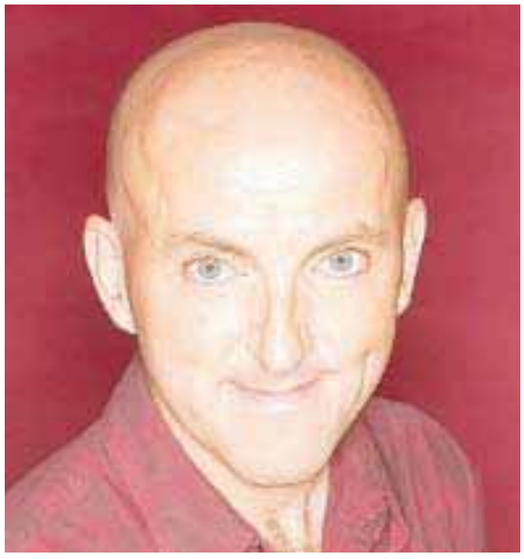
Man v Woman is just one of the ideas to come out of Hurst's weekly comedy performances at his club. Others that could well feature on later tours include Leebay, where members of the audience can ask Hurst to humorously sell items to others.

He said: "Its crazy, some big money has changed hands before and there have been plenty of odd items from Ann Summers being brought along. We had one woman who bought a surfboard for £20 on the night.

"Imagine the police seeing a woman walking down the street in Bethnal Green with a surfboard late at night!

"We also have a section called 'the hammer of death', in which people can bid to come up on stage and destroy something. One bloke paid £15 just to smash up a Jim Davidson DVD – it was brilliant."

The tour heads to Tunbridge Wells and Folkestone in September, and is being eyed up by Hurst as a possible TV production for the future.



> **For me, They Think It's All Over had become less about the comedy and more about making a spectacle of celebrity guests**
>
> HURST, ON WHY HE LEFT SHOW

He said: "It really works live. And if it has got legs, and I believe it has, it could be something that could get on screen. If the tour goes well, then we might have a think about pushing it forward."

Hurst is best-known for his stint on iconic BBC panel show They Think It's All Over during the 90s. The sports comedy starred ex-footballer Gary Lineker, former cricketer David Gower and comedian Rory McGrath and propelled Hurst into becoming a household name.

Originally the warm-up act for the show, Hurst was quickly promoted to being a panellist.

He said: "The first pilot was adapted from the radio and originally had Des Lynam and a couple of others in it, but it was terrible and put on hold. At the time the BBC were not keen on having me on the panel because they didn't think enough people knew me, but I then got the call saying I would be in the first series and it went from there."

Hurst stayed and the show's popularity kept growing until around series four, when the funny-man believed that the quiz needed updating and tweaking.

He said: "I suppose I was like the boy who cried wolf at the time. I could see gaps appearing in the show and things that needed to be changed, but the viewing figures were still massive – we're talking around the 13 million mark.

"The second VHS video of the show was crap. And the gaps I had seen coming were clearly visible. I was doing a tour at the time and I did 100 interviews, but I didn't mention the video once because it was so bad.

"For me, They Think It's All Over had become less about the comedy and more about making a spectacle of the celebrity guests that were coming in each week. It wasn't funny."

Hurst says he was promised by producers that the show would change and get updated in series five.

But "the changes never happened", he said. "In the final edit of an episode of series five you can see me putting my feet up on the desk and putting my hands behind my head.

"That was me quitting the show. There were no histrionics or anything, I just left and headed back to The Comedy Store."

Formerly a van-driver in the capital, Hurst also confirmed the rumour that he very nearly ran for Mayor of London in 2004, due to his frustrations with the road system.

He said: "As a professional driver you spend so much time on the road you can see where problems are caused. That was the main reason behind the idea of running for election, the transport issues. I believe that London's traffic and congestion problems could be solved within 12 months if you did it all in one hit.

"It would be chaos for a while, but after that it would be sorted. The problem with the mayors now is that they just tweak and tweak and tweak the problem, like you would do to get an old car through its MOT. But really you need to just admit you need to get a new car.

"I did consider running very seriously, but unfortunately it was at that time that my dad got ill and I had more important things to worry about."

Hurst, who often visits his family in Kent, will take his 20-date tour across the UK until December when he reopens his newly-refurbished comedy club.

■ **For tickets to see Lee Hurst at the Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, September 22; visit www.trinitytheatre.net or phone 01892 678678. To see him at Folkestone's Quarterhouse on Friday, September 23, visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk or call 01303 858500.**

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TALKING **POINT**

Landfill

PILE IT UP: Green Party campaigners believe we should be recycling and re-using much higher levels of our rubbish

DIGGING OURSELVES INTO A BIGGER HOLE?

Reporter JENNA PUDELEK talks to Kent Green Party about what it claims are the environmental and social dangers of more landfill sites

ENVIRONMENTALLY destructive, wasteful, outdated and smelly – Kent Green Party has slammed the county's reliance on landfill.

Filling holes with rubbish until they are full and then burying it, is the oldest form of waste treatment.

Kent County Council has been consulting on a number of new potential sites for landfill, which have been suggested by businesses and landowners.

Many residents responded with concerns about increased traffic on already busy roads, noise and air pollution, and the loss of wildlife habitat.

KCC has stressed that no decisions have been made about whether the 96 sites put forward for development are suitable or not.

But for Steve Dawe, spokesman for the county's Green Party, the local authority should be looking instead at alternatives to new landfill sites.

"They should be planning to dramatically increase reuse and recycling," he said. "There is a clear signal from the Government that they are looking at a zero-waste strategy and there is no place in that for landfill.

"Landfill is a failure to deal with waste and not an effective solution."

In the UK we currently recycle about 40 per cent of our waste and 50 per cent goes to landfill.

Mr Dawe explained the problems with landfill. He said: "The main affect of any landfill site is the transport implications. In order to run it economically, you need thousands of movements of vehicles every year to make it worthwhile to operate.

"The big effect of this is a considerable addition to air pollution and road traffic."

Campaigners in Westerham, a picturesque town near Sevenoaks, have been protesting over plans for a landfill site to take 6,750,000 tonnes of waste at Covers Farm. They say if plans are approved, they could see up to 68,000 extra lorries driving through the town each year.

Meanwhile, other countries in Europe have already successfully reduced their reliance on landfill, which has brought both environmental and economic benefits.

"If you do not go for landfill, only one per cent of waste from homes and businesses in Germany goes to landfill, you have a source of raw materials you can use in your economy," said Mr Dawe.

"If you are re-using and recycling you do not need more landfill.

"Denmark has sites for the collection of specific types of construction materials. People have to take them by law and they collect wood, bricks, concrete,etc, from sites for their re-use.

"This is something we have not achieved here in some years. The proportion of landfill that is construction waste is one third.

"There should not be waste of that sort of level, but it is encouraged by having landfill sites."

Asked why German and other European countries have been so successful at reducing landfill use, Mr Dawe said: "Germany's approach is interestingly rather similar to what the Government is proposing in its Carbon Plan.

"It is a zero-waste strategy, which looks at all the forms of materials arising as waste and attempts to reduce the amount of wastage at source. It is about recycling as much as possible while looking for forms of reuse as well to maximise use of potential waste."

He said the Green Party has advocated a zero-waste strategy for many years. Research by the party has found that 50,000 jobs could be added to the waste sector if we operated a zero-waste strategy.

One of the arguments that has been used in favour of landfill is that it can provide jobs for the local communities. But the Green Party believes even more jobs can be created by swapping to more sustainable waste policies.

Mr Dawe said: "With a zero-waste strategy you are reducing imports of raw materials.

> **"There is a clear signal from the Government that they are looking at a zero waste strategy and there is no place in that for landfill, which is a failure to deal with waste and not a solution."**
>
> **STEVE DAWE,** SPOKESMAN FOR KENT GREEN PARTY

"We import a lot, something like 90 per cent of the wood we put in use is being imported. One of the things we could be looking at is growing more forests and Kent has a lot of useful land for that purpose. We could be reducing import bills and it seems crazy that we're not doing that."

Other key objections by envionrmental campaigners to landfill include the potential for gas leakages. "One of things you expect landfill to do is make sure any gas is caught and actually used," Mr Dawe said. "Methane can be used as an energy source.

"It is a major greenhouse gas so you want to capture and burn it because you do not want it in the atmosphere to prevent it adding to greenhouse gas emissions."

The methane, which is generated by decaying organic waste, is a greenhouse gas more harmful for the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

Another danger of landfill is the social message it sends out by adding to the perception of a "great throw-away culture", Mr Dawe said.

"Alternatives to landfill sends a clear message to those who are resistent to recycling, which is a significant minority of households, and enterprises," he said. "We need to indicate that landfill is not going to be available.

"If they insist in putting large amounts of useful materials into waste streams this will cost them more money. But it must be done in a sensitive fashion because there is a risk that action to stop waste can push some people to engage in their own version of landfill – dumping – which is problematic.

"Re-use and recyling must be made easy to deter the behaviour of people engaged in dumping."

He added: "There is also the long-term contamination issue. The land cannot be put back to agricultural use because of toxic materials such as batteries, which are thrown away by some even though they can be recycled, and some plastics.

"It also means that the land cannot be replanted with trees."

A spokesman for KCC said there was no limit on the number of new landfill sites. He said comments on the 96 sites proposed by businesses and landowners would be reviewed before another list of sites the authority wants to include in it Minerals and Waste Development Framework is drawn up.

There will be another round of public consultation. It will then be down to a public inquiry to inform the Government, which will then decide on the final sites.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

We would like to hear your views on this, or any other story.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Picture: ED HILL

DIG FOR VICTORY: Volunteer diggers are uncovering the remains of Folkestone's cliff-top Roman villa

Roman villa giving up its long-buried secrets

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

DOWN the years Folkestone has been known for attracting wealthy people to its seaside location, but it seems the trend dates right back to Roman times.

A Town Unearthed is a three-year community archaeology project organised by Canterbury Christ Church University, the Folkestone People's History Centre, and Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Its latest project is investigating the remains of a Roman Villa on the East Cliff.

Senior archaeologist and site director Keith Parfitt said: "The site was discovered by Samual Winbolt in 1923. The site was left exposed as a tourist attraction up until 1957 when due to neglect it was filled in."

The excavations revealed a grand Roman villa facing towards the sea on the cliff top.

Now archaeologists have been given the chance to explore the site further before it crumbles into the sea.

Mr Parfitt said: "When Winbolt excavated it was 100ft from the cliff edge. Now we are down to about 8ft. Unfortunately it might all go in one big landslide.

"They did quite a good job in excavating it in 1924 but now we can do it even better."

Members of the community and students have volunteered to help with the digs.

Mr Parfitt said: "It has many different aspects to it, not just the villa. We have one or two very big rooms. The people who lived here were probably British Romans, rather than from Rome itself.

"They were upper class types, rather like Victorians who could afford a large mansion. They would have had servants who would have been slaves."

The villa probably consisted of two storeys with large wings. It had a mosaic floor in one room and a bath house.

Underneath the structure, made from green sandstones rocks taken from the beach, are the remains of an even earlier Roman building made from ironstone and flint.

Mr Parfitt said: "Why they took the trouble to bring that in from further away, we just don't know.

"The fact the house faces the sea is a statement in itself. We think the people here were rich enough to sit and admire the view.

"It was probably surrounded by farmsteads and these were tenants who would have paid their rent to the landowner in the villa.

"The villa's owners may have been related to the ancient Celtish aristocracy who were here before the Romans."

The digging has taken the experts even further back in time.

"A new discovery below this building is a pre-Roman settlement that was much bigger than just the villa.

"We think it might actually have been some kind of port. From here, it is the closest crossing across the Channel.

"There is also the old North Downs trackway on a ridge nearby that ran right up to Surrey and Guildford and on to Wiltshire. A kind of M20 of its day," said Mr Parfitt.

Pre-Roman coins and Italian wine flasks have been found in the area, showing it was a used to trading with Europe.

Mr Parfitt said: "It seems these people may have been happy to trade with the Romans before they invaded.

"The wine flasks date back to about 100BC. We see the trappings of the Roman world were bleeding into Britain from here."

It also seems the green sandstone led to a small industry at the site. Scattered around are the remains of quern stones; carved circles used for grinding wheat that were common across the ancient world.

Mr Parfitt said: "We have found 45 of them here so far. It was a basic domestic item and it may well be they were being made and exported from here."

There are still a few more weeks to go exploring the site. The works are open to visitors and there is a exhibition about the history of the villa and some of the items found so far.

Mr Parfitt said: "Once we have finished we will write up our results. It is a long complicated story.

"This site had already been singled out as somewhere important before the Romans. The villa was just the end result of that long period of time."

■ **You can see a yourkenttv video about the dig at the Roman villa by going to www.yourshepway.co.uk.**

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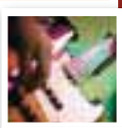

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Tearoom's success causes quite a stir in cathedral city

Ed Hill meets a woman who has used the British love of a cup of tea to build up a respected business...

TEA IS one of the things that unites us as a nation – whether it is the finest Earl Grey served in bone china or a mug of Tetley. So when Jo Dench-Owens opened Tiny Tim's Tearoom in Canterbury, she knew the cuppa had to be at the centre of the experience.

She said: "Tea is a real social part of being British. Everyone needs a cup of tea during the day. It is a respite from shopping, work and day-to-day life. People come with friends or just on their own to get away from it all."

Jo opened the tearooms in 2007 with her husband, but the size of the project soon outgrew her expectations when she found a shop in St Margaret's Street.

She said: "We wanted a nice small corner tearoom with room for about 20 covers, and then we found this building. It was far bigger than we had anticipated, but the history really interested us. It was built in the 1600s. When we took it over, it was in a sad way after being a furniture shop, but we loved the potential. I don't think at the time we realised what a big place it was and what it would take to run it."

Jo's initial motivation for opening the tearoom came from her love of baking, which she inherited from her mother.

"She was a proper mum. She had always been a baker, making cakes and pastries, and I used to help her in the kitchen. My grandmother's scones recipe is the one we use here, so really baking has been in the family for generations," said Jo.

The idea of Tiny Tim's was to re-create a tearoom that had a sense of style from the 1930s.

Jo said: "We thought that would be most appropriate and it gives the place a sense of style and class."

The art-deco fixtures fit in well with the exposed beams of a Tudor building that also has some supernatural residents.

Jo said: "The building is haunted by three children. I have never seen them, but our chef says he hears things all the time. We have a ghost room upstairs, which tells you the story about the ghosts and the restoration we did."

ONE LUMP OR TWO? Tiny Tim's Tearooms has become a popular place for the city's students and parents to celebrate when they graduate

However, the main attraction for the tearoom has to be the food and drink, and most importantly the tea.

Jo said: "We have almost 30 teas and a member of staff trained as our tea expert. She is very knowledgeable and passionate about it."

The teas are supplied from another local business, the Kent And Sussex Tea Trading Company.

Jo said: "We have two standards teas, English Breakfast and Pure Kenya, that are easily drinkable and affordable, but more people go for unusual teas than you think. Many enjoy Jasmin Snow Flower, for example, that unfurls as it is put in hot water. It is one of the most delicious teas you can have.

"There are hundreds of teas. We try to bring them in on a monthly basis. If they prove really popular, they make it on to the full menu."

Recently, Tiny Tim's has been recognised by the British Tea Guild for its excellence.

Jo said: "It was an absolute honour. It is a bit like the Michelin Star for tearooms. It is a very high standard and includes places like The Ritz. Deciding to join the guild meant we looked at everything we did and raised our standards.

"They are a very good organisation. They promote tea and really look at your tea service and how you present yourself to the customer. It's more than just a certificate on the wall."

Food is also an important element to the Tiny Tim experience.

Jo said: "We try to cater for people's needs without going too far away from what we are essentially. We have a full working kitchen, so people can enjoy something at lunch.

"All the cakes and sponges are made here on a daily basis. We also make some savoury dishes such as sausage puffkins made with local sausage meat and Kent hufkins, a traditional roll that is delivered fresh to us each day."

The tearoom has also proved a popular place for students to bring proud parents on graduation day."It is great to see the tearoom full of all these caps and gowns," said Jo.

Tiny Tim's looks like it is going from strength to strength.

Jo said: "I had no idea how busy it was going to be. We need 20 staff to run the place, but I think Canterbury needed somewhere like this that gives people an authentic British experience. We do get a lot of tourists, but many regulars have now become good friends."

Gem of country pub clicks all the right buttons for this diner

RESTAURANT **Review**

WITH all the hustle and bustle of daily life, it can sometimes be easy for city-dwellers such as me to forget just how rural a place the Garden of England is.

Home to countless orchards, ancient woodland and green spaces, it's really not that difficult to locate a restaurant in the heart of the countryside that offers the types of views of which most urban folk in Kent can only dream.

Being aware that Chartham, near Canterbury, is a popular place to live, I decided to type the words 'Chartham' and 'restaurants' into Google when trying to figure out where I should eat the other Saturday night.

While not the most scientific approach, I admit, the first result that came up – The Chapter Arms in nearby Chartham Hatch – proved my theory that you don't have to spend too long looking for idyllic eateries in Kent.

DELIGHT: Chapter Arms near Canterbury

With the restaurant overlooking acres of apple orchards and with a classic red telephone box stood at its entrance, my guest and I were instantly won over by the charm of the place.

Thankfully, the food lived up to expectations, too, as you would expect from a restaurant whose owner has catered for Test matches at Lord's, tennis at Wimbledon and rugby at Twickenham.

For my starter I opted for a delicious dish of chicken liver, smoked bacon and brandy pâté served with homemade chutney (£5.50), and I'm happy to say The Chapter Arms is probably the only restaurant I've ever visited that provides you with enough toast to spread the stuff on. Bravo!

My guest was equally pleased with her carpaccio of Aberdeen angus fillet with mixed-leaf salad (£6), which set her up nicely for a main course of Romney Marsh lamb rump served with spring onion mash, Kentish asparagus and a mint veloute (£15).

For my main, I decided to order the Kentish pork tenderloin served with a cider fondant potato, carrots, green beans and a pork and apple jus (£14). While the potato was slightly crumbly, it did not take away from what was a tasty, filling meal.

We both rounded our meal off with a beautiful treacle pudding (£5.50) – with which you can't really go wrong.

Overall, The Chapter Arms is a fantastic pub with excellent local food, and I shall most definitely be making a return visit.

I'd encourage you to do the same.

Steve Knight

■ **The Chapter Arms**
New Town Street,
Chartham Hatch, near Canterbury
Telephone: 01227 738340

Farmers' markets

Mersham

THE market now being held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday in the month features produce from the immediate area. Although a newcomer to the scene, it is proving popular.

Penshurst

THE Times recently named Penshurst farmers' market in its top 10 markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, and set against the wonderful backdrop of Penshurst Place on the first Saturday of each month, the market is one of the most popular in the area.

Hildenborough

EVERY Tuesday in St John's Church Centre the popular Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce of high quality at competitive prices.

Whitfield

WHITFIELD farmers' market is held every Thursday from 9am-noon in the village hall. It is a busy market, with 200-300 customers through the door each week. Fish on offer includes scallops, crabs, lobsters and local fish in season.

Rolvenden

ROLVENDEN farmers' market was established in 2000. It is run entirely by volunteers, is non-profit making and stall fees are kept to a minimum. The market takes place every Thursday from 10am to noon in the new village hall and St Mary's Church.

Stanstead

STANSTED farmers' market, which is held in the village hall on the first Thursday of every month, is an alternative to opening a village shop. The market gives residents the opportunity to buy fresh local foodstuffs and gives local growers another outlet.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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Hail our king and all toast the roast!

THE Sunday roast is widely considered as the king of dinners throughout the UK. Its greatness as a meal has even travelled well overseas as many tourist areas in southern France and Spain will strategically place the roast dinner on the menu to appease hungry Brits.

But there can be no doubt it is the county of Kent that is considered the heartland of the Sunday lunch. Roasts can alternate with the seasons, complemented by both the hot, filling vegetables of winter such as Brussels sprouts, cabbage and parsnips, and the lighter summer offerings like new potatoes, mange tout and runner beans.

But it is the choice of meats now available here in the Garden of England that has changed the face of the Sunday roast and opened it up to new variations and culinary experimentation.

Gone are the days when lamb, beef, pork or chicken dominated the menus in Kentish eateries. We are now so fortunate as to be offered, for example, roast goose with chilli carrots, roast duck with plumb sauce... or even roast woodpigeon!

And let's not forget Kent's other top attribute, our glorious coastline, which offers up scores of sumptuous fish dishes to enjoy.

In the bays and along the beaches, our restaurants often promote their freshly-caught cod or plaice, or maybe shellfish are more your thing.

The choice and selection of dishes that Kentish folk can proudly call 'locally sourced' provides an extra satisfaction to our Sunday lunch menus. Here are six of the best.

First and Last
Herne Bay

Why here...
Under new ownership and situated between Herne Bay and Canterbury, this friendly pub offers a fabulous choice of food, real ales, wines, spirits and always a great craic!

On the menu...
Sunday lunch is served from midday through to 6pm. All meat varieties are on the menu, served with all the trimmings! Booking is advisable if you wish to dine before 3pm!

How to book...
Herne Common, Herne Bay
CT6 7JU
phone: 01227 364465
firstandlastfreehouse.co.uk

The Olive Tree
Ramada Dover

Why here...
Sunday lunch is a great time to get together with the family and enjoy the lavish Sunday carvery buffet in the new restaurant, with the resident pianist playing quietly in the background.

On the menu...
The Sunday carvery lunch offers an Eat All You Can buffet featuring a selection of starters, three meat choices, roast vegetables and a vegetarian option, followed by a range of desserts.

How to book...
Ramada Hotel Dover
Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover
phone: 01304 872845
reservations@ramadadover.co.uk

The White Hart
Canterbury

Why here...
The White Hart is set close to both the picturesque Canterbury city centre and Wincheap.
Boasting the city's largest pub garden, the establishment offers traditional pub-grub meals and snacks for lunch but with a more diverse à la carte menu for the evening diners. Food is served Monday to Saturday from midday to 3pm and 6pm-9pm. The Sunday lunch menu is available from midday to 4pm weekly.

On the menu...
There are two roast options available every week. Each is served with with fresh, locally-produced vegetables and roast potatoes.
Other Sunday-lunch options include twice-baked cheddar and spring-onion soufflés served with a light and healthy salad.

How to book...
Worthgate Place, Canterbury
CT1 2QX
phone: 01227 765091
whitehartpub@live.co.uk

Beachbrow Hotel
Deal

Why here...
The super Sunday roast is not to be missed. A small family-run hotel with helpful and friendly staff. Both restaurant and bar have beautiful sea views across the Channel and the White Cliffs.

On the menu...
Sunday roasts are second to none, offering a selection of meats such as Alkham Valley beef, fruit-fed pork, free-range chicken, duck and Romney Marsh lamb. Local vegetables cooked fresh.

How to book...
The Beachbrow Hotel
29 Beach Street, Deal CT14 6HY
phone: 01304 374338
beachbrowbookings@live.co.uk

Wallett's Court
St Margaret's

Why here...
Celebrating three deccades of classic British country living, Wallett's Court, in its 30th year of business, is now serving a classic Sunday roast in its Michelin-rated restaurant from just £14.95. The gorgeous hotel, restaurant and bar are situated close to east Kent's rolling hills and fields and are just a stone's throw away from beautiful St Margaret's Bay and the stunning views across the English Channel to France.

On the menu...
Start with a watercress soup or smoked loch salmon before a roast sirloin of 30-day matured beef with Yorkshires. Or try the local loin of Brogdale Farm pork and vegetables. Perhaps try a sumptuous leg of Romney Marsh lamb dressed with mint.

How to book...
Wallett's Court Country House Hotel, Westcliffe,
St Margaret's-at-Cliffe CT15 6EW
phone: 01304 852 424

St Crispin Inn
Worth

Why here...
Mike and his daughter Siobhan have taken over this beautiful 15th-century inn. Located in the village of Worth, a friendly welcome, quality food and service is what you can expect.

On the menu...
A traditional Sunday roast offering you a choice of meats and all the usual trimmings will leave you satisfied and wondering if you will still have room for one of the delicious desserts.

How to book...
The Street, Worth,
Deal CT14 ODF
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www.stcrispininn.com

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Music and good food... glorious!

JAZZ afternoons are being held this summer at Elvey Farm in Pluckley on the second Sunday of the month, with the next one scheduled for September 11.

There's a wonderful atmosphere and nothing nicer than listening to a jazz band on a sunny Sunday afternoon, drinking wine, eating good food and looking out over the Kentish fields.

The event runs from noon onwards. Two courses costs £23.50, with three courses at £29.50. Advance bookings only.

Starters include fresh pea-and-ham soup with Kentish huffkin, crab and cucumber salad with garnish, and chicken liver and fig pâté served with toasted huffkin fingers.

Main dishes range from beef, pork, lamb or chicken for the roasts, while pan-fried seabass fillets, beef and oyster casserole or roasted mixed pepper and tomato tart are other options.

Delicious desserts include baked chocolate cheesecake, and strawberries with chantilly cream. Cheese and biscuits is another option.

Elvey Farm in Pluckley is a beautiful location, in the heart of Darling Buds Of May country... a perfect spot for a restaurant, tucked away with amazing views in all directions – a little country oasis.

■ **Elvey Farm,**
Elvey Lane, Pluckley TN27 0SU
Telephone: 01233 840442
www.elveyfarm.co.uk

CHEF RECOMMENDS

BLACK PIG: Telephone 01304 813000
STARTER: Pan-fried woodpigeon breast and black-pudding salad.
MAIN: Slow-roasted pork belly with apple, celeraic mash and red-wine sauce.
DESSERT: Taywell ice-creams.
MAMA FEELGOODS: Telephone 01227 830830
STARTER: Smoked trout mousse.
MAIN: Cheeseboard for two.
DESSERT: Meringue with berries and cream.
ELVEY FARM: Telephone 01233 840442
STARTER: Kentish goat's cheese and spinach souffle, young leaf salad and pesto dressing.
MAIN: Aga-cooked shoulder of Romney lamb, tomato, sage-and-herb sauce, flageolet beans and spring-onion mash.
DESSERT: Kentish cherry crumble.
DON GIOVANNI'S: Telephone 01303 850962
STARTER: Crespelle tarantino, pancakes with mussels, or insalata mare, seafood salad.
MAIN: Brazino Siciliano, seabass cooked in salt, or agnello erbe aromatiche, lamb in herbs.
DESSERT: A wide selection from the trolley.
SURIN RESTAURANT: Telephone 01843 592001
STARTER: Butterfly prawns in breadcrumbs
MAIN: Beef in red curry with coconut milk, potatoes and peanut.
DESSERT: Homemade apple fritters with honey and ice-cream.

JUST STEP INSIDE: The Black Pig is a country pub, and families with children, horses and passing tractor-drivers may all be enjoying the venue when you stop by to pay your own visit

The country pub where all are welcome to enjoy happy living

THE Black Pig is a fine 19th-century timbered building with a large garden and free parking.

The bed-and-breakfast has five en-suite rooms, two doubles, two twins and one single, while a function room is available for wedding receptions, parties and other events.

The Black Pig has two separate dining areas and bars, and there is an extensive range of home-cooked meals using locally-sourced food.

Guests can enjoy a drink in the two bars from a large selection of real ales, lagers and wines. On hot summer days there is nothing better than a lounge in the garden with a cool drink or enjoying an al-fresco meal.

The eatery has recently been refurbished and has a lovely setting in the picturesque village of Staple, which is close to both Canterbury and Sandwich.

There are lunchtime and evening menus to choose from and the charm and beauty of the building, together with the friendliness of staff and locals and the exceptional food, makes it one of the best places to visit in the area.

Everything on the menu is home-cooked and fresh that day. The Black Pig has a large south-facing garden where barbecues are held for special occasions.

It is a country pub where dogs, children, horses and passing tractor-drivers are all welcome.

Food is served from midday to 3pm and 6pm-9pm on Tuesday to Saturday and midday to to 4pm on Sunday. The bar and restaurant is closed on Mondays.

■ **The Black Pig**
Barnsole Road, Staple CT3 1LE
Telephone: 01304 813000
Web: www.the blackpig.co.uk

Best-kept Italian secrets and all that jazz

DON Giovanni's is the best-kept secret in Folkestone.

It was established in 1990 and the Italian restaurant is as popular today as it has ever been, offering Italian comforts and superb cuisine. Diners can taste the excellent Italian food and experience the personalised service, with an extensive restaurant menu at reasonable prices.

The first music event – The Eastcoasters – was a fantastic success as smooth pure jazz made sure the family-run eatery had a great atmosphere all night.

The band are making an effort to popularise modern jazz by the likes of Miles Davies and John Coltrane, and the evening they played saw a wide mix of patrons, from newcomers to the music to seasoned fans.

A stylish three-course meal complemented the music perfectly.

The next event at Don Giovanni's sees Louise Orfila play on Friday, August 26, from 7pm until late. Don't miss this amazing local talented country, pop and rock performer. Tickets are £30 and include a three-course meal.

The restaurant is one of the most popular in the area and offers a unique chance to experience authentic Italian cuisine cooked by top staff who have a real pride in the attention they give to details and how the food is prepared and served.

A truly warm and friendly atmosphere, along with excellent drink, is another attraction at this top-class venue, which is growing in popularity in a town that is fast becoming an extremely popular destination for top-quality food.

■ **Don Giovanni's**
18 Bouverie Road West,
Folkestone CT20 2SZ
Telephone: 01303 850962
Website: www.dongiovanni.co.uk

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WALK

Grove Ferry

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

The Grove Ferry Inn and the neighbouring picnic site provide an idyllic hidden haven for the start and finish of this lovely circular route, just perfect for a summer afternoon walk

LEAVING the car park at the Grove Ferry Inn, the route strikes off along the picturesque banks of the Great Stour, a home for many river boats and pleasure craft offering trips.

Leaving the Great Stour and heading towards the Little Stour you may notice the abundance of hawthorn and cow parsley. In springtime the nearby orchards are awash with colourful blossom. Lavender was once grown commercially in the area and its oil also distilled here.

Wildlife, particularly birds, flourish in this area thanks to the nearby Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve, which boasts more than 240 acres of wetland and reedbeds. So listen out for birdsong as you walk along the picturesque pathways – you never know what you might hear.

Grove Ferry is known locally for growing fruit and vegetables. The area is criss-crossed by drainage ditches and dykes that encase small villages and farmhouses. The tracks across this marshland are very popular with people enjoying the beautiful open landscape with its uninterrupted open vistas across fields.

The two villages you will meet as you continue along this route – East Stourmouth and West Stourmouth – are typical examples of the many small, attractive settlements in the area.

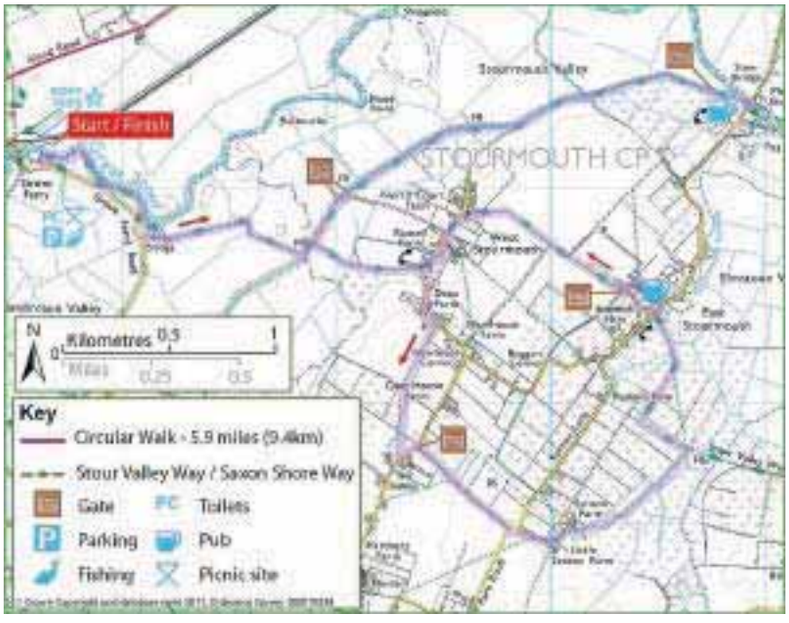
They retain a traditional rural atmosphere even though they are only a few miles from the bustling historic city of Canterbury.

If you have time, why not take a look at All Saints' Church in West Stourmouth before returning to the route back to Grove Ferry. The church, which can claim Saxon origins, has a 17th-century pulpit and a fine Royal Arms of George III.

On your return, why not stop a while at the Grove Ferry picnic site, an ideal place to rest if you have come prepared with a picnic or fishing rod? Fishing rights were granted here during the reign of Henry II and are still available today.

If you would prefer for lunch to be laid on for you, the Grove Ferry Inn next door is a delight for any weary walker, providing excellent food using fresh, local ingredients.

- **Location:** Grove Ferry, CT3 4BP.
- **Distance:** 5.9 miles (9.4km), allow two hours and 30 minutes.
- **OS Explorer Map:** 150.
- **Terrain:** Field, orchard paths and some roadway.
- **Step count:** about 11,800.
- **Parking:** There is pay-and-display parking at Grove Ferry picnic site.
- **Refreshments and facilities:** There is the Grove Ferry Inn at the start/finish point and also a pub en-route in East Stourmouth.



WILDLIFE: Birds such as the grey heron flourish in the area and water voles can be seen popping in or out of their holes along the banks of the Stour

Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast.

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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New arrivals
It's so simples for meerkats

Port Lympne, near Hythe
0844 8424647
www.aspinalfoundation.org
Open from 9.30am to 6pm

VISITORS to Port Lympne wild animal park will have even more meerkats to compare following the birth of three kittens earlier this month.
Keepers were delighted when they spotted that Tiggs, the matriarch of the meerkat group, was once again expecting.
Tiggs had her first litter of three in April and keepers have welcomed the latest additions to Tiggs's growing band.
Head keeper Richard Barnes said: "I am delighted that Tiggs is such a good mum. I hand-reared her when she was a kitten due to an illness – she recovered well and has given birth to two healthy litters."
Port Lympne Passport-holders will be able to revisit the park as often as they wish during the year.

Falconry day
Marvel at the birds of prey

Kent Life, Maidstone
Monday, August 29
01622 763936
www.kentlife.org.uk

MEET the visiting birds of prey, including a barn owl, eagle owl, griffon vulture, bald eagle and peregrine.
Falconry displays will showcase the keen sense of vision and expert hunting skills of these fascinating predatory creatures.
Kent Life offers visitors a history of the people who lived and worked in the Garden of England over the past 150 years. Step back in time and experience Kent's rural life and traditional buildings which have been rebuilt onsite.
Kent Life members receive a 20 per cent discount for entry to the park, on Lock Lane.
The event runs from 10am-6pm. Entry is £8.95 for adults and £6.50 for children (aged four to 15).
A family ticket costs £25.95.

The Canterbury Tales... in full
Open-air show

Mount Ephraim, Faversham
Sunday and Monday, Aug 28-29
01227 751496
www.thepantaloons.co.uk

THE Pantaloons open-air theatre company is touring the country this summer with its ambitious and complete version of Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales.
The travellers have decided to stop at Mount Ephraim Gardens near Faversham after the rip-roaring success of last year's Much Ado About Nothing.
In what may be a theatrical first, The Pantaloons, who formed at the University of Kent, are performing every single one of the 23 completed Canterbury Tales.
That's no mean feat considering the play features a cast of just six actors playing more than 70 characters.
The Pantaloons are not making it easy for themselves as each story will be performed in a different theatrical style. Audiences can expect pantomime, puppetry, masks, musicals, mime, farce, reality television, horror and opera.
Complete with medieval market beforehand, the audience can interact with the characters and even have a kiss from the Wife of Bath.
The play follows a group of pilgrims who decide to hold a story-telling contest on the road from Southwark to the shrine of St Thomas Becket in Canterbury. So gather your own group of pilgrims, pack a picnic and come enjoy some midsummer medieval madness on an epic scale.

Oldtimer Rally
Motor show on the front

The Leas, Folkestone
Monday, August 29
www.oldtimer.uk.com
oldtimer@grand-uk.com

THE Oldtimer Rally on The Leas, Folkestone, is a free annual classic-car festival on August Bank Holiday which attracts more than 300 entrants, including a Continental contingent.
Car rallies have been held on The Leas since 1896 and the show certainly has some history behind it.
In 1933 the first one-marque car rally ever was held here, and in 1964 there were more Rolls-Royces per head of population in Folkestone than any other town in the world, so during the 70s the rally became established as the Rolls-Royce Parade.
In the 80s and 90s it became part of the local authority-sponsored Shepway Airshow before being transformed into the Oldtimer, a modern term for a classic car.
With a backdrop of majestic Victorian and Edwardian buildings and views across the English Channel, motor fans should be in for a treat, but should it rain, the Grand's Palm Court glazed terrace overlooking the rally site couldn't be a finer retreat.

Record effort
The nine-day broadcast?

Canterbury Hospital Radio
August 27-September 4
01227 864161
www.canterburyhr.org.uk

DJ Mark Mulvihill will be making an attempt to break the world record for a continuous broadcast at Canterbury Hospital Radio (CHR) this month.
The nine-day marathon is taking place to raise funds for the station, which entertains patients while they are in hospital. He will be supported by station colleagues.
The strict rules mean he is only allowed a five-minute break from the microphone each hour, although he is able to combine the time so he can have longer periods of sleep.
You can learn more about the record attempt by watching Yourkenttv, while Mulvihill's hospital broadcast is on 945AM. He is looking for people to join him and his guests during the attempt.
The studio is opposite the Thomas Becket Dialysis Unit at the hospital.
To sponsor the DJ and find out how you can get involved, email djmarkym81@yahoo.co.uk.

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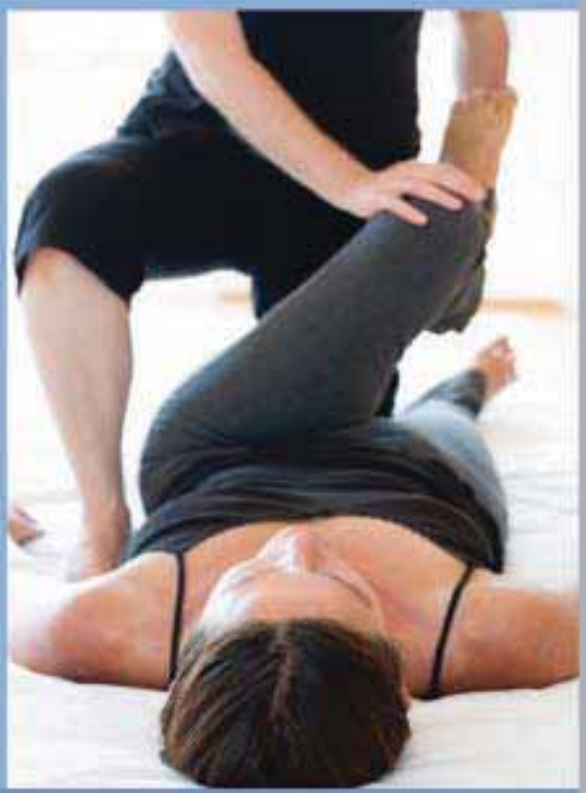

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www.thespencerwing.com

Sesame Street
Join the furry fun and frolics

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Sunday, September 11
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

MARK your calendar for a musical event like no other – monsters making music.
Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and all their Sesame Street friends are taking to the stage to share their love of music in Sesame Street Live, Elmo Makes Music.
Abby Cadabby loves to sing and wants to start a band. Abby, Elmo and friends discover instruments they never knew existed: pots, spoons, trash-can lids and cookie jars. Everyone's favourite furry and feathered friends teach children we can make beautiful music together. Like TV's Sesame Street, the show appeals to all ages.
Tickets: adults £14, children £12, family of four £48. Ticket office: 01892 530613/532072.

Doors Alive
The 40-year anniversary

The Forum, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, September 9
0870 2643333
www.twforum.co.uk

TO commemorate 40 years since the death of Jim Morrison, the UK's premier Doors tribute act are touring the UK.
The Doors Alive bring the closest and most enthralling representation of the 1960s rock gods to the Tunbridge Wells Forum.
The band re-create the sound, look, presence and magic of a 1960s Doors concert, perfectly and effortlessly transporting the audience back in time with classic hits such as Light My Fire, When The Music's Over, Riders On The Storm and The End.
To achieve that authentic Sixties sound, the band use the same instruments that members of The Doors used, including vintage keyboards, the Fender Rhodes bass and, of course, the vintage Gibson SG guitar. Willie Scott captures the look, attitude and rich baritone voice of the late, great Jim Morrison with ease, while his compadres showcase the musical chops of Doors members Ray Manzarek, Robby Krieger and John Densmore with finesse.

Classics and fresh talent
Meet Mozart

East Bridge Chorale, Ash
Friday, September 2
01227 721319
www.eastbridgechorale.com

THE East Bridge Chorale will be a holding a concert featuring new local talent with a programme including works by Mozart and Haydn.
The concert will be conducted by 19-year-old Benedict Preece, the former chorister at Canterbury Cathedral and French horn-player having just finished his first year at Trinity College of Music in London.
Preece will also be playing his instrument for the performance of Mozart's Horn Concerto in E flat major.
Soloists for the night include Penelope Martin-Smith, Ian Thompson, Peter Futcher and Jamie Maclean with the East Bridge Ensemble.
Other works being performed include, Haydn's St Nicholas Mass in G minor and Mozart's Coronation Mass.
Preece has raised the East Bridge Chorale from scratch and the group now numbers 75 singers.
The concert is at St Nicholas Church in Ash at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10, including wine and refreshments. Visit www.eastbridgechorale.com.

Hit musical
The story of Eva Cassidy

The Granville Theatre, Ramsgate,
Sunday, September 25
01843 591750

SINCE its first performance in 2004, Over The Rainbow: The Eva Cassidy Story has received rapturous receptions and inspired cathartic outpourings of emotion.
It is the poignant and moving story of Washington-born singer Eva Cassidy. By the time of her death, she was unknown outside Washington, but within four years Terry Wogan discovered and promoted her haunting interpretation of Somewhere Over The Rainbow to the top of the chart.
This sad but uplifting musical play journeys through her life, from her idyllic childhood growing up in a musical family, to her studio work with boyfriend and mentor Chris Biondo, to the exuberant live recording of Blues Alley, and finally to her tragically premature death at the age of just 33.
Featuring an all-star cast of performers and musicians, Over The Rainbow captures the qualities of this talented and spiritual song stylist. Not since Blood Brothers has a musical received such an emotional response, with sell-out performances and standing ovations throughout the UK and Ireland.
Sarah Jane Buckley from Hollyoaks stars as the singer, with Maureen Nolan in the role of her mother. Tickets: £15 on the door, £14 in advance and for Friends Of The Granville.

Skabour's back!
Festival sets the 2 Tone

Folkestone Harbour
Friday to Sunday, September 2-4
01303 228600
folkestoneskabourfestival.co.uk

THE Folkestone Skabour Festival has announced its final line-up. With more than 20 bands and even more DJs, the event will be a non-stop party, starting at the Channel Suite of the Leas Cliff Hall on the Friday and finishing at The True Briton on Sunday night.
Daytime events at Folkestone harbour are free for all to attend. Going by last year's audience, the event will have a family friendly atmosphere for all ages.
Ska bands from across the UK and as far afield as Finland, France, Belgium and Germany will be playing this year.
The first night of headline ticketed events will take place at the Leas Cliff Hall on Friday, September 2, with 2Tone legends The Selecter featuring Pauline Black, best known for hits such as Three Minute Hero and On My Radio. Back by popular demand from last year's sell-out night are The Beat (singer Ranking Roger, above), while the third act of the evening will be Skabilly Rebels with Roddy Radiation.
The Saturday night ticketed event at Quarterhouse will feature the current kings of ska, The Dualers, with support from The Skanks.

HOMES

We're all used to seeing TV footage of show gardens that look perfect for a week, but what if the garden is allowed to stay and grow? Now's the chance to see the show for yourself.

In May, Room To Improve featured the amazing show gardens of Jacksons – now, three months on, we can see how they are maturing and have a more in-depth look at some of the products that have been put to good use in the displays.

The seven gardens were the result of a competition aimed at garden designers, run over two years by Kent company Jacksons Fencing.

It challenged them to create a sustainable and environmentally-friendly garden on an original theme, incorporating the company's products and those of its partners to reflect the high quality for which the company is known.

The prize was to have the design applied to displays that would not look out of place at any of the big garden shows.

The difference is, Chelsea and Hampton may be over by now, but Jacksons show gardens are still open to the public – not just for a week, like many garden shows – but all year round, allowing visitors who have never had the chance before ample opportunity to see a show garden and get inspiration for their own project.

■ Ultra-modern perspex doesn't hide the glory.

Garden design

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

■ Justine Jobson's Fragrant Front Garden demonstrates conventional elegance. Opposite, from top, is Heather Appleton's The Float Garden and Mary Ann Le May's Paradise Garden. Every one's a winner!

With seven show gardens to see, there's something to suit different tastes, as can be seen by the ultra-modern Jacksons prototype perspex fencing surrounding the Paradise Garden, by Mary Ann Le May.

This cool and fresh approach to creating a barrier around a garden may not be to everyone's taste, but it suits totally the quirky, modish style of the garden. The effect of being able to see the planting in its full colourful glory through the transparent panels is stunning.

■ Traditional railing elegance.

Maybe your tastes lean towards the more conventional? Then Justine Jobson's Fragrant Front Garden could be just up your street.

Justine was one of only two designers out of the hundreds entering the competition who thought to create a front garden, putting the new Jacksons range of garden railings and gates to ingenious use. They are the perfect perimeter and are what every well-dressed front garden would be happy to wear.

Designed from steel, galvanised and polyester powder coated black to match the front door, planters, trellis and other accessories in the garden, the overall effect is a combination of traditional elegance with an up-to-date twist.

It is worth noting if you are a fan of the Float Garden, featuring the Zone structure, that these are still discounted by 50 per cent in the Jacksons midsummer offer until the end of August.

There will be a chance to see all seven gardens and seven designers on the same day – and enjoy much more besides – at this year's Meet The Designers day on Saturday, September 17.

The event will be worth visiting, with conservation and countryside-themed exhibits, refreshments, competitions and more.

Jacksons is planning a farmers' market, a charity bring-and-buy plant sale and exhibits from bee and wildlife fans, as well as the chance to discuss projects and ideas with the designers of all seven show gardens.

One who is sure to be in demand is Heather Appleton, who created The Float Garden for Jacksons and went one better this year by scooping a gold medal from the Royal Horticultural Society at this year's Hampton Court show.

The gold medal for the Kipling Garden, one of the poet-themed gardens at the event, followed Heather's silver-medal success at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The Meet The Designers event will also feature a competition offering the chance to have a garden designed by one of the seven Jacksons show-garden designers, including £500 of Jacksons products.

■ **For more information on the offer, the gardens or the brochures, visit jacksons-fencing.co.uk or phone 01233 750393.**

HOMES

Londoners will pour out to Sheppey housing estates

IMPROVED transport links and investment in north Kent have made living on the Isle of Sheppey an attractive option for those looking to move out of London.

Shurland Place in the Thistle Hill area of Minster is a new development by Jones Homes Southern.

The homes are traditional-style two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom detached, link-detached and mews houses

One on offer as the developer's Home Of The Month is priced at £265,000.

It is a four-bedroom, link-detached Norwood house with a well-proportioned lounge with a feature bay window and double doors which open on to a dining room. The dining room, in turn, opens to the rear garden.

The contemporary kitchen, overlooking the garden, comes complete with a range of kitchen appliances, and the utility area, at the rear of the garage, may be accessed from the kitchen.

As Home Of The Month, the price includes floor coverings throughout.

A company spokesman said: "Not only does Shurland Place provide a wide range of house types, it's also one of the only developments in the area with on-plot parking and good-sized gardens.

NEW DEVELOPMENT: Shurland Place in the Thistle Hill area, near Minster on Sheppey

"The development is ideally placed for those who enjoy the outdoors; the long beach at The Leas is popular with local people and visitors alike.

"Part of the beach is reserved for bathing, while other parts are used by windsurfers and fishermen. With good connections to the M2 and M20 and a range of homes at affordable prices, it isn't surprising that people working in Sittingbourne and south London are choosing to move to Sheppey. "

Second-homes peril

WITH the number of people owning second homes in the UK rising, issues are being raised about the unexpected risks they face, *writes Victoria Adley*.

Statistics from the English Housing Survey: Household Report 2009-10 show that there are 279,000 second homes in England.

Furthermore, the increasing popularity of 'staycations', in which holidaymakers are choosing to remain in the UK, will only add to this appeal.

Jonathan Smithers, from Tonbridge Wells solicitors CooperBurnett said: "It is essential that anyone owning a second home contacts a Conveyance Quality Scheme [CQS]-accredited solicitor to look at the potential risks and benefits of buying."

Second homes are often unoccupied for long periods, complicated to insure, subject to legal anomalies, and vulnerable to burglars or squatters, according to the company.

Experts say that anyone choosing to allow friends or family to stay in the property could be changing its status to a holiday home without realising it. If the home-owner receives rent, there are further legal implications to consider.

RISKS: Jonathan Smithers says weigh up the pros and cons when looking to buy a second home

Mr Smithers said: "During off-seasons, second-home-owners might look to rent out the property for long periods of time and suddenly you have a landlord-and-tenant relationship which carries with it a host of additional obligations and liabilities."

He said it was crucial that prospective buyers were aware of the minefield of legal, financial and security issues before they finalised their decision.

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STUNNING VIEWS BY THE SEA

36 Lanthorne Road Price: £795,000

BRAND NEW & LUXURY BESPOKE Detached house affording well appointed accommodation and stunning sea and North Foreland Golf Course views. Comprising five bedrooms with en suite facilities to all with additional 20ft x 20ft lounge, 29ft kitchen /dining room and rear balcony this superbly equipped and fitted property is finished to the highest of standards and boasts an NHBC certificate. There is a double garage and to the rear garden a brick summer house lending itself to a variety of uses. A schedule of fitments is supplied by the vendor and the property benefits from NO ONWARDS CHAIN. Viewing is essential to appreciate the quality

36a Lanthorne Road Price: £775,000

BRAND NEW & LUXURY BESPOKE Detached house affording well appointed accommodation and stunning sea and North Foreland Golf Course views. Comprising five bedrooms with en suite facilities to all and additional 20ft x 20ft lounge, 29ft kitchen/dining room and rear balcony this superbly equipped property is finished to the highest of standards and boasts an NHBC certificate. There is a double garage and to the rear garden a brick summer house lending itself to a variety of uses. A schedule of fitments is supplied by the vendor and the property benefits from NO ONWARDS CHAIN

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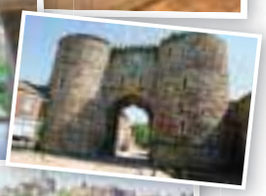

For a limited period the price of a spacious four bedroom house at Valley Park, the stunning development of New England style homes on the outskirts of Rye, has been reduced by a whopping £30,000.

Valley Park is proving to be so much more than just a place to live. It offers home buyers one of the first opportunities to purchase a character property built to the latest eco standards in Rye.

Overlooking an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Valley Park is just half a mile from Rye station with its links to London St Pancras in around an hour and major coastal East Sussex towns. All Valley Park homes are built to an extremely high specification and the four bedroom Arlington, with its attached garage, is no exception.

A broad fronted end of terrace house, the front door leads into an entrance hall which has a cloakroom, living/dining room, kitchen and the stairs leading off it. The spacious living/dining room, which has an airy, contemporary feel accentuated by the continuous flooring, overlooks the private rear garden and leads directly into the kitchen.

Upstairs there are four good-sized bedrooms off the main landing, plus airing cupboard and the main bathroom. Three of the bedrooms have fitted wardrobes and both the master bedroom and guest bedroom have en-suites.

A major feature of the homes at Valley Park is the attention to detail that has been paid to providing high specification fixtures and fittings. The Arlington has:

- Fully fitted kitchen with built-in appliances
- Granite or stone effect worktops
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Once surrounded by sea, the fortified hilltop town of Rye played an important role in the defence of the south coast of England. These days, the river no longer harbours warships and is home to the local fishing fleet whose catches include Rye Bay scallops and Dover sole.

The sheer concentration of living history packed into this vibrant market town with its ancient buildings, cobbled streets and secret passages, once the haunt of smugglers and highwaymen makes Rye a wonderful place to live. There are many pubs and restaurants in and around the town and the outlying villages all offering an alternative slice of country night-life way from the hustle and bustle.

The marshes are now one of the largest bird sanctuaries in Europe and there is so much to do in Rye with the miles of unspoilt dunes and sandy beach at Camber Sands nearby.

For more details on Valley Park call the sales office on 01797 222547 or visit www.valleyparkrye.co.uk

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Picture by Paul Jerreat: **Westgate Towers, Canterbury**

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Sharan shows her class

By Sam Davison
editorial@archant.co.uk

VOLKSWAGEN'S original Sharan remained in production for 15 years.

It shows that good design and function can overcome a terrible name – in this case, one that conjured up the archetypal disco queen dancing around her handbag in her 'Sharon shoes' aka white stilettos.

The Sharan had several other names though; with slight changes, it also appeared as the Ford Galaxy and Seat Alhambra.

This trio kick-started the people carrier or MPV movement, by showing that a high-riding seven-seat car did not have to look and handle like a van.

Ford has since gone its own way with the next-generation Galaxy and sporty S-Max, while VW and sister brand Seat have launched the Mk II Sharan and Alhambra, which show just how far MPV design has advanced in those 15 years.

Of course, if want to carry seven people, you can't get away from bulk, but the new Sharan looks lower and sleeker even if it is actually slightly bigger all round.

And if the first car was a revelation in road manners and composure, the newcomer is even better, making it easy to forget you are piloting such a capacious vehicle.

It is equally at home on rural roads or motorways, making it ideal as a family or courtesy bus

But the most significant development is in the economy department. Every new Sharan now benefits from VW's BlueMotion eco technology. In the case of our 140PS (138bhp) 2.0-litre diesel test car that means an official combined consumption of 49.6mpg – in real world motoring during my week with the car that still translated into an impressive average well into the 40s.

It also means modest CO_2 emissions for this class – 149g/km puts this version in road tax Band E (£130/year).

BlueMotion kit here includes stop-start, which cuts the engine and then automatically restarts it in congested traffic. The battery is largely regenerated by recovering energy otherwise lost through braking.

Such miserliness is all the more welcome for family buyers of the Sharan as this is not a cheap car – prices start at £23,485 – and you could easily be tempted to make group outings even more comfortable by trading up to our luxury SEL spec test car.

This comes with a double-length sunroof, which makes the glassy cabin even more light and airy – it costs £960.

However, you will pay extra (£390) for what looked like a pair of ejector seats – the outer ones in the second row. These turned out to be integrated child seats, which double as perfectly comfortable seats for adults when not in use.

They epitomise the thought that has gone into living with this new Sharan; if you do need a big family motor and dread the 'are we there yet?' moment – usually just a few miles into a long journey – then the Sharan could postpone that chilling sound.

The quality of the fixtures and fittings, and stowage features is excellent and the five rearmost seats are easily accessible via the two rear sliding doors – the old car had hinged ones.

Those five seats can also be arranged in various permutations – the three middle ones are completely independent – or even folded flat for 'van mode'. You had to unclip and remove them to get to that stage with the Mk I.

One final word: trade up to the six-speed DSG auto gearbox if you can. It will cost you £1,200 extra but suits this big vehicle perfectly by giving smooth auto changes for town environment, and manual selection when you want to enjoy the Sharan's engaging road manners.

FORGET THE NAME: The new Sharan is full of quality fixtures and fittings and now benefits from VW's BlueMotion technology

VW SHARAN SEL 2.0-LITRE (140PS) TDI AUTO : £30,985

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£130/year
Best rival:	Ford S-Max

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Three-seater Picanto due

KIA will make the Picanto available as a three-door on September 1, priced from £7,795. It is the first time the Korean baby car has been available in anything but five-door format, but Kia says it gives further options in the expanding city car segment – some 45 per cent of UK buyers in that part of the market go for three-door cars.

Nissan injects fuel price cut

NISSAN is launching a petrol Micra supermini that thinks it's a diesel. The DIG-S (Direct Injection Gasoline – Super-charged) version goes on sale from September 1 priced from £11,150. Not only does the ultra low emission 1.2-litre engine qualify for road tax exemption, but it can average nearly 70mpg – that's in diesel territory, using a cheaper fuel.

Land Rover's cleaner diesel

LAND Rover's classic Defender go anywhere off-road model – a car that can trace its routes to the original 1948 'Landie' – now has a cleaner mainstay diesel engine.The new 2.2-litre unit not only adheres to stringent EU5 emissions regulations – replacing the bigger EU4 2.4-litre diesel – but also delivers the same power and economy as its predecessor.

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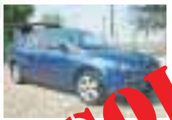
2003/03 PLATE PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0 SE CONVERTIBLE

in Metallic midnight Black with contrasting full back leather interior air con electric windows remote control central locking front fog lights alloys multiple airbag protection system electric power roof-c/d in car entertainment system multi function steering wheel electric adjustable door mirrors power steering drivers seat height adjustment **£3,995**

2007/56 PLATE SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 GL 3 DOOR

in metallic burnt orange with contrasting black cloth interior power steering electric windows electric adjustable door mirrors drivers seat height adjustment c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system remote control central locking this car is offered with one owner from new **£3,995**



2007/07 PLATE FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR

SOLD

in ocean blue metallic with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning alloy wheels remote control central locking electric windows front fog lights drivers seat height adjustment c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system electric adjustable door mirrors one owner from new full service history **Was ~~£6,495~~ Now £5,995**

2002/02 PLATE VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0 SE AUTO 4 DOOR

in metallic charcoal grey with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows remote control central locking alloy wheels c/d in car entertainment system electric adjustable door mirrors drivers seat height adjustment multiple airbag protection system this car offers great value for money **£3,495**

2007/56 PLATE MAZDA 6 1.8 TS 5 DOOR

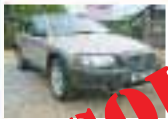
in met cosmos black with contrasting black cloth interior, air cond, alloys, elec windows, remoteCL, CD in car entertainment system, elec adjustable door mirrors, drivers seat height adjustment, multiple airbags, multi function steering wheel. This car is one owner from new with a full SH as only covered 27,000 miles! Great value for money at **only £4995**

2010/60 PLATE AUDI A4 S LINE 2.0 TDI 143BHP 4 DOOR

in metallic stardust silver with black leather interior sat nav air con r/c/c/locking e/windows 6 speed gearbox e/mirrors front fog lights multifunction steering wheel front & rear parking sensors alloy wheels daylight running headlights c/d multiple airbag one owner from new, only 12,000 miles two years audi warranty remaining sensibly priced at **£22,995**

2006/06 PLATE FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI LX ESTATE 5 DOOR

in metallic ocean blue with contrasting black cloth interior, air con, elecwindows, multifunction steering wheel, electric adjustable door mirrors, drivers seat height adjustment, remote control cl, multiple airbag protection system, CD in-car entertainment system, dog guard. This car offers great fuel economy lots of space and is priced at only **£4495**



2001 PLATE VOLVO V70 XC 5 DOOR ESTATE 2.4 AUTOMATIC

SOLD

in metallic champagne silver with ivory leather interior-climate control-alloy wheels-elec windows-remote control central locking-front center arm rest-multifunction steering wheel-front fog lights-electric adjustable door mirrors-c/d in-car entertainment system-electric adjustable front seats with memory-multiple airbag protection system **£3,995**

JUST ARRIVED

2003/53 PLATE PEUGEOT 206 1.6 QUICKSILVER 3 DOOR

in Moonlight metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior-alloy wheels-electric windows-air conditioning-c/d incar entertainment system-remote control central locking-multiple airbag protection system-front foglights-drivers seat height adjustment-nice little car looks great sensibly priced at only **£2,995**

JUST ARRIVED

2006/56 PLATE CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE 5 DOOR

in metallic midnight blue with contrasting black cloth interior, air con, remote control CL electric windows, CD in-car entertainment system, power steering, multiple airbag protection system, under seat storage compartments. This car is offered with one owner from new with a full main dealer SH, low tax and insurance group **at only £3995**

JUST ARRIVED

2002/02 PLATE MERCEDES A160 ELEGANCE SEMI AUTO 5 DOOR

in met moonlight silver with contrasting black cloth interior, air con, alloys, elec windows, drivers seat height adjustment, remote CL, CD in-car entertainment system, elec adjustable door mirrors, multiple airbag protection system, power assisted steering, front center armrest. This car would make a great family car sensibly priced **at only £2495**

JUST ARRIVED

2005/05 PLATE PEUGEOT 407 DIESEL 2.0 HDI SE ESTATE

in met Ocean blue with contrasting black cloth int., alloys, panoramic glass roof with electric blind, 6-speed gearbox, front centre armrest, elec windows, air con, remote CL, CD, front fog lights, multiple airbags, elec door mirrors, drivers seat height adjustment. This car offers great fuel economy and good value for money, sensibly priced **at only £4995**

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P REG/1997 MAZDA 323 1.5 LXI 5 door in metallic red-alloy wheels-power steering-electric windows-this car will come with a new mot and is good value for money at only	£695
2001/51 MAZDA 626 SPORT 4 DOOR SALOON in metallic midnight black with contrasting grey cloth interior electric windows elec sunroof alloys c/d player remote control central locking this car has a new mot, long tax it's very clean and offers	£995
2001/51 NISSAN ALMERA TINO SE2 in metallic ocean blue with contrasting blue cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-electric sunroof-alloy wheels-c/d player-central locking this car is offered with a long mot and sensibly priced at only	£1,495
2002/02 HYUNDAI TRAJET 2.0 GSI in metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-central locking-7 seats-electric windows-electric adjustable wing mirrors-offered with a very long mot would make a great family car priced at only	£1,495
2003/52 REG FOR FOCUS LX 1.8 TDCI 5 DOOR in moonstone metallic silver with black cloth interior air-con alloy wheels e/windows e/mirrors front fog lights c/d r/c/c/locking Mot until July 2012 tax until Nov 2011 ready to go sensibly priced at only	£1,895
2003/03 PLATE VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1.6 ESTATE in metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior electric windows c/d player this car has a mot and tax it's very clean and offers great value for money at only	£1,995

Resilient Volvo negotiating stormy seas

1ST DRIVE

BY SAM DAVISON editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FRESH LOOK: Volvo's stylish C30, left, and rakish V60 estate are not only easy on the eye but practical, durable and among the greenest cars on the road

IT only takes a second to realise why Volvo has identified itself with sailing.

No, it's not because it makes a lot of the marine engines that yachts use on calm days.

It's because the Swedish brand – particularly famous for its estate models – delivers exactly what yachties want: ego-free premium products, practicality, durability and, increasingly, some of the greenest cars around.

Plans are now afoot for the marque's premier boating event, the Volvo Ocean Race 2011-12, again reinforcing appeal to the sailing set.

It's not been all plain sailing for Volvo of late though; there was a stop-go sale by former owner Ford that finally happened in March last year.

The US car giant did a good job bringing in efficiencies and new platforms and was clearly most reluctant to sell Volvo – the last foreign acquisition to go out of Ford's former Premier Automotive Group (1999-2008) – but a need for cash and restructuring forced its hand.

Volvo has the spinnaker up now though, with new owner and Chinese car group Geely on board.

Tangible proof is a major refresh and upgrade affecting all models including the recently-launched and impressive all-new S60/V60 compact executive range – a serious rival now to the Audi A4, BMW 3 Series and Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

The key move is the revamping of Volvo's long-running but highly flexible D5 turbodiesel. It remains smooth and willing, but the Swedes have not only made it greener to comply with the stringent Euro5 emissions legislation, but also boosted output by 10bhp to 215bhp and somehow cut fuel consumption by eight per cent.

Already seen in the firm's S80 luxury flagship, it is now also available in the S60 and its V60 estate sister, the big V70 estate and its all-wheel drive XC70 sister, and the XC60 and XC70 SUVs.

All six-speed manual versions get start/stop, which switches off the engine when the car is stationary. The engine fires up immediately when the driver presses the clutch. All variants are also available with a six-speed auto though.

Customers buying most D5 Volvos can now also get a £645 performance upgrade via the marque's motorsport partner Polestar.

The other impressive aspect about this new look line-up is how Volvo is motoring on with its DRIVe eco-friendly packages. It really does allow you to drive a premium car that is more environmentally sensitive, but without major compromises in the driving experience.

The C30 DRIVe deserves special mention, even though this smart coupe/hatchback range with retro hinged glass tailgate has not sold in the numbers expected – a point admitted even by Volvo.

Along with the V50 estate, this car is now available with a lively 115PS (113bhp) 1.6 turbodiesel with start/stop as standard and a road tax and congestion charge-exempt 99g/km of CO_2 emissions. There can't be many better ways to enjoy a premium drive, be eco, and save on tax.

Larger S60 and V60 DRIVe models produce an impressive sub-120g/km CO_2, making them exempt from first year road tax with just £30/year thereafter.

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The Citroën C3 VTR+ has hundreds of plus points – dazzling good looks and a long list of features amongst them. But it also has a couple of big zeroes against it at the moment - 0% VAT and 0% APR representative finance. Available on the 1.4i 75 manual, or the HDi 70 manual VTR+, the diesel model also benefitting from £0 road tax[1].

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*On the road prices & offers apply to retail sales of qualifying Citroën C3 vehicles ordered and delivered 01/08/11 -30/09/11 and include delivery to dealer and number plates, Government First Registration fee, and 12 months' graduated vehicle excise duty. Black/metallic/pearlescent/Botticelli Blue paint optional at extra cost. Prices shown include the 0% VAT offer, which is a reduction in the OTR price equivalent to the 20% VAT on the purchase of C3 1.4i 75 manual VTR+ and C3 HDi 70 manual VTR+. ♦Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request from Citroën Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QA, UK. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. [1]First year only. Prices and offers correct at time of going to press, subject to stock availability and at participating dealers only; contact your participating dealer for latest prices, offers, terms and conditions.

Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO2 emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën C3 VTi 120 AUTOMATIC Exclusive 9.4/30.0, 5.0/56.4, 6.6/42.8, 153. Lowest: Citroën C3 e-HDi 90 AIRDREAM MANUAL VTR+ 93g 4.2/67.3, 3.2/88.3, 3.6/78.5, 93.

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2011(11) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 2000 miles £21,995
2010(60) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 2000 miles £19,995
2010(60) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £15,995
2010(60) **VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO,** GREY, 5000 miles £15,995
2010(10) **VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREEN, 900 miles £14,995
2010(60) **MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1700 miles £14,995
2011(11) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 350 miles £14,995
2010(60) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 2000 miles £13,995
2011(11) **PEUGEOT 308 HDI S 5DR TURBO HATCH AUTO,** THORIUM GREY, 1000 miles £12,995
2011(11) **VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 500 miles £12,995
2011(11) **HONDA JAZZ I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BRONZE, 300 miles £12,995
2011(11) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1000 miles £12,995
2011(11) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** RED, 2000 miles £11,995
2010(60) **NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO,** WHITE, 3000 miles £11,995
2010(60) **NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO,** INFERNO RED, 2000 miles £11,995
2010(60) **FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles £11,995
2011(60) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles £11,495
2011(60) **VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 650 miles £10,995
2010(60) **FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 3000 miles £10,995
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2009(59) **BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO,** BRONZE, 4000 miles £19,995
2010(10) **PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLACK, 3000 miles £13,995
2009(59) **RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE COUPE AUTO,** RUBY RED, 8000 miles £11,995
2008(08) **RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £9,995
2003(53) **BMW Z4 Z4 ROADSTER 6 SPEED MANUAL CONVERTIBLE,** GREY, 49000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** EMOTION RED, 7000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** CAFE LATTE, 14000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA VISIA CC MANUAL CONVERTIBLE,** BLACK, 15000 miles £7,995
2006(06) **RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995

NEW FIESTA

2011(11) **FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** MIDNIGHT SKY GREY, 500 miles £12,995
2010(60) **FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles £11,995
2009(09) **FORD FIESTA ZETEC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 3000 miles £9,995
2009(58) **FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles £8,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2010(10) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £10,995
2009(09) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 8000 miles £9,995
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £8,995
2008(58) **FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £8,495
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SEA GREY, 16000 miles £7,995
2005(54) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 29000 miles £4,995
2006(55) **FORD FOCUS LX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 28000 miles £4,995

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2008(08) **FORD FOCUS TITANIUM ESTATE ESTATE AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles £9,995
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO,** MOONDUST SILVER, 5000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO,** RED, 11000 miles £7,995

RENAULT SCENIC

2009(59) **RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 6000 miles £14,995
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2009(09) **CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** POLY SILVER, 7000 miles £6,995
2009(59) **CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £5,995
2009(59) **CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ORANGE, 500 miles £5,995
2009(58) **CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO,** BLACK, 9000 miles £5,995
2008(08) **CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SPORTS BLUE, 18000 miles £5,495
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2011(11) **HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 100 miles £10,995
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2008(58) **HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 10000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 10000 miles £5,995
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2008(08) **HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 9000 miles £5,495
2007(07) **HYUNDAI GETZ CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SEASIDE BLUE, 19000 miles £5,495
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KIA

2010(10) **KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 3000 miles £7,995
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DAIHATSU

2008(08) **DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 13000 miles £6,995
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2008(08) **DAIHATSU MATERIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 12000 miles £6,995
2007(57) **DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £6,495
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BMW

2009(59) **BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO,** BRONZE, 4000 miles, ... £19,995

FIAT

2010(10) **FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 500 miles £9,495

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2008(08) **FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** OCEAN BLUE, 20000 miles £5,995

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2008(58) **CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 10000 miles £7,995
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2011(11) **VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 500 miles £12,995
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2008(58) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 11000 miles £7,995
2009(09) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH AUTO,** GOLD, 12000 miles £7,495
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA SXI AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GOLD, 9000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 7000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO,** METRO BLUE, 8000 miles £6,495
2007(07) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 39000 miles £5,995
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2008(08) **MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO,** GOLDEN SAND, 5000 miles £10,995
2008(58) **MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 5000 miles £9,995
2008(08) **MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
2007(56) **MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles £5,495

SUZUKI

2009(59) **SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2007(57) **SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 21000 miles £7,495
2009(59) **SUZUKI ALTO SZ4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 8000 miles £6,995

TOYOTA

2008(08) **TOYOTA AVENSIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 13000 miles £12,995
2006(56) **TOYOTA RAV-4 XT4 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4,** BLACK, 35000 miles £12,995
2008(08) **TOYOTA AVENSIS T4 VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 6000 miles £11,995
2010(60) **TOYOTA YARIS TR VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 2000 miles £10,995
2010(10) **TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CARIBBEAN BLUE, 6000 miles £7,995
2008(08) **TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 12000 miles £7,495
2005(55) **TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO,** CRYSTAL SILVER, 4000 miles £6,995
2005(05) **TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CYRSTAL SILVER, 7000 miles £6,995
2003 (03) **TOYOTA YARIS CDX VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 46000 miles £4,995

NISSAN

2010(10) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 7000 miles £16,995
2008(58) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles £15,495
2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** FADED DENIM, 19000 miles £14,995
2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 10000mile

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2011(11) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** RED, 2000 miles.....£11,995
2011(60) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles.....£11,495
2010(10) **NISSAN MICRA N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles...£9,995
2010(59) **NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO,** BLADE SILVER, 5000 miles £9,995
2009(59) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 8000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** CAFE LATTE, 14000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2009(09) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 13000 miles.....£8,495
2009(58) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFFE LATTE, 7000 miles .£7,995
2007(57) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 15000 miles.....£6,995
2007(57) **NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 18000 miles.....£6,995
2007(57) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
2008(57) **NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 15000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) **NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 11000 miles.....£6,995
2008(08) **NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO,** EMOTION RED, 18000 miles.....£6,995
2005(3) **NISSAN PRIMERA SVE ESTATE AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO,** ORANGE, 21000 miles.....£6,495
2006(56) **NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO,** ORANGE, 21000 miles £5,995
2005(05) **NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 11000 miles.....£4,995
2005(54) **NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFE LATTE, 9000 miles £4,995
2004(54) **NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 13000 miles.....£4,995
2005(05) **NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 5000 miles £4,995
2005(55) **NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 39000 miles £4,995
2005(05) **NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £4,995
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2005(05) **NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLADE SILVER, 12000 miles.....£4,495
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2008(58) **VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** PANACOTTA, 15000 miles £9,995
2009(59) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
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2009(59) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREEN, 2000 miles £8,995
2009(09) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles.....£8,995
2008(58) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 3000 miles £8,495
2007(57) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** TURQUOISE, 20000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 10000 miles £6,495
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles.....£6,495
2007(57) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995
2008(57) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** TURQUOISE, 16000 miles £5,995

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2010(10) **VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREEN, 900 miles £14,995
2010(60) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 2000 miles £13,995
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ASTRA ESTATES

2010(10) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE ESTATE AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 3000 miles.....£9,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO,** PANNACOTTA, 7000 miles £6,995
2008(58) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 8000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO,** BLUE, 1000 miles.....£6,495
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 18000 miles.....£5,995
2006(56) **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO,** PANACOTTA, 19000 miles £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2008(08) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE MPV AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 5000 miles £10,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO,** PANNACOTTA, 13000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 9000 miles£8,995
2009(59) **VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO,** GOLD, 3000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO,** ULTRA BLUE, 12000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles.....£8,495
2008(08) **VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 6000 miles.....£6,995
2005(05) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO,** STAR SILVER, 9000 miles...£5,995
2005(05) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO,** SILVER LIGHTNING, 19000 miles £5,495
2007(07) **VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 51000 miles.....£4,695
2005(55) **VAUXHALL MERIVA ENJOY 16V MTA MPV AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 31000 miles, ...£4,495

PEUGEOT

2010(10) **PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO,** BLACK, 3000 miles £13,995
2010(10) **PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 7000 miles £10,995
2010(10) **PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ABYSS BLUE, 6000 miles.....£9,995
2010(59) **PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** MONTEBELLO BLUE, 1000 miles £9,495
2009(09) **PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO,** NIMBUS GREY, 7000 miles.....£8,995
2008(08) **PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £8,995
2007(57) **PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO,** RED, 23000 miles.....£7,495
2009(09) **PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ELECTRIC BLUE, 9000 miles ...£6,995
2007(57) **PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO,** GREY, 2000 miles £6,995
2008(08) **PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 3DR HATCH AUTO,** CITRUS YELLOW, 14000 miles.....£5,995

MITSUBISHI

2007(57) **MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO,** GREY, 19000 miles.....£6,995

HONDA

2008(57) **HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4,** WHISTLER SILVER, 12000 miles £16,995
2008(57) **HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....£16,995
2007(07) **HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4,** GREY, 24000 miles.....£15,995
2008(08) **HONDA FR-V I-VTEC EX MPV AUTO,** BLACK, 11000 miles £12,995
2011(11) **HONDA JAZZ I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BRONZE, 300 miles £12,995
2008(58) **HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 9000 miles.....£9,495
2005(55) **HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 48000 miles.....£5,995

MERCEDES

2008(58) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 16000 miles.....£13,995
2009(09) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO,** STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2007(57) **MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO,** CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles.....£12,995
2008(08) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** COSMOS BLACK, 8000 miles.....£11,995
2006(56) **MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180 KOMPRESSOR SPORT EDITION COUPE AUTO,** BLUEBLACK, 48000 miles.....£10,995
2007(57) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £9,995
2003(53) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 ELEGANCE SWB 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 42000 miles £4,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH TDI 105 DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles.....£12,995
2011(11) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1000 miles....£12,995
2010(59) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO,** REFLEX SILVER, 3000 miles £11,995
2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 10000 miles £11,995
2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE GRAPHITE, 18000 miles.....£11,495
2009(59) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO,** REFLEX SILVER, 780 miles £9,995
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2008(58) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO,** BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 10000 miles £7,995
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2005(05) **VOLKSWAGEN POLO TWIST 3DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,995

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2010(60) **VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO,** GREY, 5000 miles.....£15,995
2010(60) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....£15,995
2009(59) **RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 6000 miles.....£14,995
2009(09) **MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO,** STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2011(11) **PEUGEOT 308 HDI S 5DR TURBO HATCH,** THORIUM GREY, 1000 miles ..£12,995
2008(08) **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH TDI 105 DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 17000 miles.....£12,995

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2003(53) **BMW Z4 ROADSTER 6 SPEED MANUAL CONVERTIBLE,** GREY, 49000 miles £8,995
2009(59) **VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 1.4 16V 3DR,** GREY, 18000 miles £8,495
2007(57) **TOYOTA YARIS TR 5DR HATCH,** GREY, 14000 miles.....£5,995
2006(56) **VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,495
2006(06) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV,** METRO BLUE, 37000 miles £4,995
2002(52) **VAUXHALL ASTRA LS 5DR HATCH,** BLUE, 49000 miles.....£2,495

SKODA

2008(58) **SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 8000 miles.....£7,995
2008(08) **SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO,** BLUE, 4000 miles.....£7,495

QASHQAI

2010(60) **NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC PLUS 2 4X4 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4,** BLACK, 200 miles £22,495
2011(11) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** RED, 2000 miles £21,995
2010(60) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 2000 miles £19,995
2010(60) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** NIGHTSHADE, 5000 miles£19,995
2008(58) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £15,995
2008(58) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles £15,495
2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** FADED DENIM, 19000 miles £14,995
2009(09) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 9000 miles £14,995
2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles £12,995
2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** FIRED IRON, 13000 miles £12,495
2008(08) **NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 21000 miles.....£11,995

MINI

2010(60) **MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 1700 miles.....£14,995

VAUXHALL AGILA

2011(60) **VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLACK, 650 miles £10,995
2009(09) **VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO,** BLUE, 3000 miles £7,995

FIESTA

2008(08) **FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** AMETHYST, 5000 miles.....£7,995
2008(08) **FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO,** GREEN, 5000 miles £6,995

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2005 05 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 91,350 miles, Metallic silver, 2 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Elec door mirrors/windows, PAS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Insurance Group: 17 ....£5,995

2002 52 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 143,075 miles, Blue. ABS, Alloy wheels, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Audio remote control, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Head restraints, Heated door mirrors, PAS, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Reverse Parking Aid, Electrically adjustable passenger seat. Insurance Group:17 ....£3,195

Sold

2001 51 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T Arc , 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 86,869 miles, BLUE, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Roof rails, Radio/CD, Traction control, Full Eclectic Pack, PAS, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alarm, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer. Insurance Group:13E £2,795

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3 HOT AERO, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 143,150 miles, metallic silver, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Roof rails, Radio/CD/Cassette, Side airbags, Rear headrests, Traction control, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Height adjustable drivers seat, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer. Insurance Group:17A £1,895

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THUMBS-UP: The BMX track at Cyclopark

CYCLING

Team USA riders test BMX track

CONSTRUCTION of a world-class cycling complex in Kent was given a boost this week after the United States Olympic BMX team praised the facilities.

Work began on the £8 million 43-hectare Cyclopark project in February and although it is not due to officially open until next May, many of its elements are nearing completion.

The BMX track will be among the first to be finished and planners hope to complete construction by the start of next month. It has already attracted interest from around the world, with riders from three national teams trying out the 340-metre course.

The Olympic Park is hosting the third round of the BMX Supercross World Cup Series this weekend as a test event and several squads used the opportunity to make the short trip to Cyclopark, which is being built alongside the A2 at Gravesend. The full squad from the USA put it through its paces on Wednesday, following members from Australia and New Zealand earlier in the week.

Laurence Tricker, project manager at Cyclopark, was pleased with the feedback.

He said: "They were very positive and said it was a fantastic course, which is great. We had what I would call an Olympic endorsement from on of the best teams in the world."

Progress has been swift, thanks in part to a dry spring which saw the initial earthworks get six weeks ahead of schedule.

As well as the BMX track, by early next month the accompanying pump track and road cycling circuit should be finished. Within another month the six kilometres of undulating mountain biking trails should follow.

Although the pavilion will not be signed off until next spring, as expected, it is hoped the tracks will be subject to test events from October.

Members of the public will be able to sign up for the trials online, with developers keen to accommodate as many riders as possible.

Tricker said: "We do want to make sure the local community has an opportunity to explore the site."

Once fully operational Cyclopark is expected to attract about 100,000 cyclists per year.

CYCLING

House building up to Tour of Britain with jersey win

By Glenn Pearson
glenn.pearson@archant.co.uk

WITH the Tour of Britain fast approaching, Kristian House underlined his form leading up to the focal point of his season by winning the King of the Mountain's jersey at last weekend's Olympic test event in London.

While Mark Cavendish, the winner of the green jersey at the Tour de France, took the win in the 140-kilometre test event for next year's Olympic road race around Surrey and the streets of London, House featured prominently in a four-man break that threatened to ruin the Manxman's hopes of a bunch sprint on The Mall.

Indeed, House, from Canterbury, managed to build a lead of more than six minutes as the break reached the first of two laps of Box Hill, a five per cent rise of 2.5km that will be climbed nine times in 2012.

As 250,000 lined the streets of the capital, House, riding for UK domestic team Rapha Condor Sharp, pushed on in hope of providing a major upset and denying the sprinters their chance, but the teams were too organised and with Team England working to help Cavendish and Great Britain, the 31-year-old was reeled back by the rest of the peleton with nine kilometres to go.

For House, who grew up in Texas, it was a worthwhile experience, although he admitted to not understanding the significance of the race before last weekend.

"I found out a few weeks ago and we had to make the decision about doing that or a race in France," he explained. "I wasn't particularly excited about it at first and to be honest I didn't really understand the magnitude of it, to me it seemed like a test event and not a real race.

"When I got there I realised how important it was and things changed. It was probably the most amazing race I have done in the UK, just because of the sheer number of people out on the roads and how well the roads were closed.

"It was as good as we wanted it or could have expected it to have gone. You always sensed it was going to be a bunch kick when you had an England team and a Great Britain team all essentially working for Cav.

"The only alternative was to go up the road and make yourself seen and there was obviously the King of the Mountains to go for which wasn't exactly a goal, but when the opportunity presented itself I grabbed it."

Picture: AE PHOTOS

TOP GEAR: Kent's Kristian House (in black jersey) won the King of the Mountains jersey at the Olympic test event

Next year's Olympic road race will be over 250km and with seven extra laps of Box Hill, there could be a chance of a break getting away. However, House believes Cavendish is still the man to beat and expects the 'Manx Missile' to grab the first gold medal of the Olympic Games for Great Britain.

"We got a six-minute gap and I'm sure in a 250km race it would go out as far as 12 minutes," he said. "I think something similar will happen next year, but it's harder to control if you've only got five riders and Great Britain won't have that England team in there to help them, but there will be alliances with other countries that want a sprint at the end.

"It's going to be interesting and maybe people will think they can drop Cav on the climbs.

"However, it's a long run-in from the climbs so that's something to think about."

BASKETBALL

Olympic taste whets Richards' appetite as he earns his Spurs

A former Kent Crusaders basketball player was one of the first to play competitive sport at the Olympic Park after making his debut for the senior Great Britain basketball team.

Ryan Richards, 20, made his bow against France on Tuesday, which was part of the London Invitational Tournament.

Involving six nations, it ends on Sunday with Britain against Australia and is the first test event held on the Park ahead of next summer's Games.

Sittingbourne's Richards, who made headlines last year when he was drafted to NBA franchise San Antonio Spurs, was impressed with the temporary venue, which will be dismantled and sold after the Olympics.

"It's an amazing arena, it's just a shame it will be sold off," he said. "It doesn't feel temporary whatsoever, it's a great experience to play there and get into the men's programme for the first time.

"Playing in the Olympics is one of my main career goals and to do it not far from where I grew up would be fantastic."

Richards, who played as a junior for the Canterbury-based Kent Crusaders, is confident of making the cut when the squad is trimmed from 15 to 12 for the EuroBasket finals in Lithuania later this month.

Richards is hoping strong performances for the national side will also be well received on the other side of the Atlantic after a frustrating first year at San Antonio.

He spent the majority of the first year in Texas on the sidelines recovering from two operations to repair a shoulder injury.

The 6ft 11ins forward is expecting to spend at least the first part of next season on loan to a club in Europe, but is eager to prove himself at the highest level as quickly as possible.

He said: "I've spent most of my time since moving to San Antonio in rehab, getting healthy and learning about the game. It was a tough season but I'm enjoying being part of one of the best franchises in basketball.

"Coming from Sittingbourne to where I am now I'm just grateful really. I have my friends and my mum to keep me grounded and humble.

"I'll probably be coming back to Europe to start with next season to prove myself. I just want to show I have what it takes to help the Spurs win."

Picture: MANSOOR AHMED

DEBUT: Ryan Richards in action against Croatia

FOOTBALL

Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

EXPECTATIONS: (L-R) Newly promoted Hythe Town are confident and looking forward to derbies against neighbours Folkestone Invicta, while Faversham Town boss Ray Turner may face a tough campaign

High hopes and local rivalries spice up Ryman South season

With seven Kent clubs in the division, DAVID PRITCHARD assesses the challengers

A QUIRKY combination of promotions and relegations in the spring have conspired to make Ryman Division One South arguably the most intriguing non-league competition in Kent this season.

There are seven of the county's clubs in direct competition, almost a third of the division. As well as copious amounts of derbies, there is the promise of battling for honours, with the majority of the septet having gone into this weekend's opening round of games with genuine belief they can mount a credible promotion challenge to Bognor Regis Town and Whitehawk, who just missed out last season.

Anticipation is probably highest at Maidstone United. The pain of relegation from the Ryman Premier Division was eased by a strong finish under popular player/manager Jay Saunders, who is cautiously optimistic.

He said: "I think there will be seven or eight teams going for it at the top.

"We have as good a squad as we could have put together and I've said to the players if they go in with the right attitude we'll do well."

Less is expected of Folkestone Invicta, relegated with Maidstone in April.

There is a feeling the worst of the Seasiders' financial problems are behind them, but boss Neil Cugley is playing down his side's chances of repeating the promotion won two seasons ago.

He said: "Hopefully we have got over those problems and should be able to keep everyone together. I think we have to be realistic and say this league is where we should be."

Ramsgate may fare better. They finished well at the end of last season and have added strength in depth.

Faversham Town are likely to struggle to emulate their eighth place finish last season after losing several key players. They may be embroiled in a bottom half battle alongside Whitstable Town, who will be desperate to avoid a repeat of their previous four seasons in the division which have been marked by poor starts.

It could be a similar story at cash-strapped Sittingbourne, where the key factor in their success is likely to be how Richard Brady uses his contacts to assemble a squad on a shoestring.

The picture should be much rosier for Hythe Town. The Kent League champions have added quality and their direct style could reap rewards.

Reachfields manager Scott Porter insists his initial targets are modest.

He said: "There's no pressure on us. We want to establish ourselves in this league, get into mid-table and then who knows?"

It all distracts from the Ryman Premier, where Margate should be looking forward with optimism after several indifferent seasons. Chris Kinnear has recruited a younger squad who could figure among the play-off race.

The biggest challenge for Cray Wanderers boss Ian Jenkins is how to maintain his side's upward trajectory after punching above their weight to finish ninth last season.

FOOTBALL

Delight at Homelands as reformed Ashford United make their return to league football

SENIOR football has returned to Ashford after 12 months in the wilderness.

A dispute between Ashford Town's owners last year went to court and saw the club withdraw from competition last season. Reformed as Ashford United, they are back two levels lower in the football pyramid as part of the first season in the new Kent Invicta League.

Pre-season has shown encouraging performances on the pitch and off it, with friendlies attracting an average of more than 200 fans.

Ernie Warren, United's chairman, is delighted the club are back.

He said: "The crowds have been fabulous for a team which has been out of business for a season. There's a great atmosphere around the club which has been missing for years, there's a real buzz around the place.

"The management and players have gone through one of the hardest pre-seasons I have seen and I think we've got a young, exciting side.

"Everyone wants to be the first club to win the new league, but it'll take a few games to know how strong we are."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

BACK: Manager Paul Chambers has assembled an entirely new squad this summer

GOLF

Prince's hosts Kent Open

MORE than 140 players teed up at Prince's Golf Club this week for the PGA Kent Open Championship.

The two-day tournament, which started on Thursday and finished after this newspaper went to press, is one of the most lucrative on the PGA South Region's calendar, with a prize fund of £15,000 to play for at the course in Sandwich.

There was plenty of local interest among the bumper field, none more so than Francis McGuirk. The Sandwich golfer, who qualified for The Open Championship at Royal St George's last month, was one of four golfers playing on their home course.

One of the quartet, Anthony Tarchetti, put his local knowledge to good use as he finished fourth in Wednesday's Pro-Am competition. His two-under-par round of 70 was four shots behind winner Andrew Cloke, from Berkshire.

Richard Wallis came fifth to head into the main tournament with confidence.

The Walmer & Kingsdown golfer went in looking to extend his big lead in the region's Order of Merit after a successful season which included victory in the PGA Southern Open Championship in June.

Picture: ADY KERRY

HOME SOIL: Francis McGuirk

CRICKET

PACE: Wahab Riaz has been unplayable at times

Pakistan quickie keen on a Kent return next year

OVERSEAS pace bowler Wahab Riaz played his last game for the club this week before returning to Pakistan, but reiterated his desire to play for the county again next season.

The 26-year-old has at times been sensational with the ball, taking a hat-trick and a five-wicket haul in the Friends Life t20 against Gloucestershire at Beckenham and ending his Clydesdale Bank 40 campaign with 5 for 46 against Middlesex under the St Lawrence floodlights on Tuesday night.

While he may not have hit the same heights in the county championship or in the Twenty20 quarter-final against Leicetershire, there's no doubting he is a talent and his ability to make the ball reverse swing at speeds near 90mph means he has an exciting international career ahead of him.

He has progressed under compatriot Azhar Mahmood's wing at Kent and the left-arm quick bowler admits he would be keen on a return.

"I have had a superb time with these guys, all the players, management and coaches; they have been superb with me and helped me out a lot and I would like to play for them again if I get the opportunity," he said. "I just felt like I am at home and not playing away from home because they are so supportive and it's been great fun. If I get an opportunity I will definitely come back."

Northeast breaks ranks to say new deal is imminent

By Glenn Pearson
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THE futures of eight out-of-contract players at Kent appear to be nearing a conclusion with one key member having revealed this week he is on the verge of signing a new deal to stay with the county.

As we exclusively revealed on our website, batsman Sam Northeast is close to completing a deal to remain with the county and it's believed the futures of the remaining seven are soon to be made public. The others: Joe Denly, Robbie Joseph, Simon Cook, Azhar Mahmood, James Goodman, Chris Piesley and Adam Riley, who have all been in discussions with the county for the past month.

It's believed Kent are waiting to finalise the futures of all eight before making any announcements about who is staying and who will be leaving St Lawrence.

Chairman George Kennedy told this newspaper last week that he anticipated "one or two" would be leaving the county, although stressed Kent have not been approached for any of those currently coming to the end of their contracts.

The news that Northeast, a Kent Academy graduate and a player the club are desperately keen not to lose, is close to re-signing is an indication improvements have been made off the pitch.

The 21-year-old's inclusion in Kent's limited overs sides this season has also been key in negotiations between player and club after he was used sparingly in Twenty20 and one-day cricket last year.

"I'm always going to stay at Kent as long as I feel the club are supporting me and I am going forward in my career and the club are going to go forward," he said. "I'm going to stay if I feel those things are going to happen. It's a great place to play, and yes we are very near and I'm sure something will come out pretty soon."

All pictures: ADY KERRY

CLOSE: Batsman Sam Northeast is closing in on a new deal to stay at Kent beyond this season

The Ashford-born batsman, fast becoming the 'finisher' in Kent's limited overs side after half-centuries in each of the last two Clydesdale Bank 40 victories, has struggled for runs in the championship this season, scoring 601 runs in his 24 innings before this week's visit of Middlesex.

It's a statistic Northeast is aware of and one he wants to improve on before the end of the season.

"If I have a few big scores in the four-day game up to the end of the season I would be quite happy and it would give me something to build on," he said.

"I've scored a hundred and a 99 in the championship, it's just been the in-between really and keeping that consistency. I keep on talking about it, but it's about improving and that's the aim.

"Some people might think that I should be further in my career, but I will continue to try my hardest to keep improving and learning and we'll see where we get."

HAPPY DAYS: Darren Stevens after match haul

CRICKET

Ex-county all-rounder praised as Stevo makes honours board

DARREN Stevens has credited former Kent and Leicestershire all-rounder Vince Wells for helping his progression as a bowler after etching his name on the honours board at St Lawrence last week.

The 35-year-old took match figures of 11 for 70 against Surrey during Canterbury Cricket Week, which included a first innings haul of 7 for 21, to become the third man to have taken 10 wickets in a game at Canterbury.

While used sparingly as a bowler during his time at Leicester, Stevens has become a genuine all-rounder in all formats of the game at Kent.

He sent down 267 overs last season in the championship alone, and despite several weeks off bowling this summer due to a trapped nerve in his shoulder, he has bowled 186 overs already (before this week's championship game against Middlesex) at an impressive 19.75 apiece.

Stevens believes winters spent with Wells, who played for England as well as Leicestershire and Kent, have helped him improve as a bowler.

"I worked on my bowling massive amounts, I've done loads and I really enjoy it," he said. "I'm not express pace, I'm just gentle medium pace and I've worked on swinging the ball. Vince Wells – who I played with at Leicester – I've worked with him quite a bit over the last four years during the winter breaks.

"He was the same sort of bowler, he was quicker than me but we're very similar.

"I probably bowled more than I should have last season, but I did a job to get us through to the new ball. With no big rollers any more and the Tiflex balls doing more than they should be doing, and with me bowling straight and making people play, batsmen don't like facing me.

"In four-day cricket people want to leave the ball and get into a groove, but I don't do that, I make them play."

Despite the enormity of his display against Surrey, he was somewhat reserved in his assessment of taking 11 wickets in a game.

"It was just my day," he said. "It was fabulous. Only three of us have done it, taken 10 at Canterbury."

SEVEN UP: Stevens took 7 for 21 against Surrey

GILLINGHAM

Wonder goal underlines the talent of Gills' Jack the lad

By David Pritchard
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THE handful of scouts sat behind the press box at Underhill on Tuesday night were raving about Jack Payne long before the Gillingham teenager lit up the game with a spectacular goal.

Although the 25-yard strike into the top corner was not a typical contribution, the rest of his performance was entirely in keeping with his other 60 appearances in a Gills shirt.

In the helter skelter world of League Two, anyone who has the composure to put their foot on the ball and reliably pick out a team-mate stands out. Even more so when they are under 20.

The scouting reports which landed on managers' desks this week will have been full of praise for a player who has looked at ease ever since he made his first-team debut aged 16.

Despite Championship side Reading being linked with a move last season, there have been no public offers, but the goal at Barnet may have forced interested parties to weigh up an approach before the transfer window closes at the end of the month. Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler is well aware of Payne's potential, but is hoping his prized asset stays at Priestfield for the moment.

"Jack's a terrific young player and I think he's growing in confidence all the time," he said.

"I know a lot of scouts have been watching him for a couple of years. It doesn't surprise me that people are drooling over him because he's a good player, but he's loving his football here. He should be playing at a higher level but he's here and we've nurtured him along.

"He's going to have a real big future but we want him to have a big future at Gillingham first and see where he goes."

As an interviewee Payne, 19, is as understated and mature as he is on the pitch. Describing his goal this week, only the second of his career, he shrugged and said: "I took a touch and it just opened up so I thought 'why not?' I don't normally score many but I thought I'd have a go."

Arguably his biggest attribute is an attitude which has kept his feet on the ground and he's keen to learn. When the Gills offered lengthy contract extensions to Payne and Luke Rooney two years ago he simply signed and got back to work, while his team-mate negotiated over terms.

Pictures: ADY KERRY

OLD HEAD: Jack Payne has played 61 games for the Gills

BATTLER: The teenager in the action at Barnet on Tuesday

The good news for Gills fans is the approach makes him unlikely to agitate for a move, and his response to the speculation must have been music to Hessenthaler's ears.

"I don't really think about it," he said. "The gaffer speaks to me every day and if anything does come up he would be the first person to tell me, but at the moment I'm just concentrating on developing as a player.

"I know I have still got a lot of developing to do, so I'm just working hard and keeping my head down."

FOOTBALL

Football fans poised for derby day blockbusters

PASSIONS will run high around the county on Tuesday night as Kent's football fans gear up for a bumper programme of midweek derby action.

Dartford's trip to Dover Athletic in Conference South tops the bill, with both clubs expected to feature in the promotion shake-up this season.

An already tasty fixture is lent added spice by Jon Wallis' decision to leave Dover for Princes Park in the summer, and the midfielder can expect a hot reception on his first return to Crabble.

Tonbridge Angels, still coming to terms with Conference football, make the short trip to Welling United. The Wings, another side hoping to make the play-offs, beat Tonbridge 1-0 when the sides met in the FA Trophy last season.

There are also three all-Kent affairs in Ryman Division One South, where Hythe Town and Faversham Town clash for the first time since locking horns in the Kent League.

CLASH: Dover Athletic welcome Dartford to Crabble on Tuesday

Maidstone United's bid to bounce straight back up after relegation could depend largely on their results against county rivals, starting with Tuesday's trip to face Whitstable Town at the Belmont.

There will be no quarter given at Bourne Park, where Sittingbourne and Ramsgate go head-to-head. Neither were able to force their way into the play-off picture last term and Tuesday's clash offers an early chance to lay down a marker.

EBBSFLEET UNITED

Stavrinou back at Fleet and eager to repay faith

CYPRIOT midfielder Alex Stavrinou is eager to vindicate Ebbsfleet United's owners after they voted for the budget increase to engineer his move back to Stonebridge Road.

The former Charlton Athletic player, loaned out to the Fleet during the 2009-10 season, joined the club on a permanent basis last week. However, manager Liam Daish had to appeal for fresh funding from the club's website owners to sign the 20-year-old in time for the start of the Conference Premier season.

"The gaffer said he wanted to bring me in but didn't quite have the budget," Stavrinou explained. "I wanted to get amongst the boys and get fit and he allowed me to do that.

"When he got the budget, he brought me in, thanks to the fans. It's very different [to normal transfer procedure], but it shows the fans have got quite a lot of faith in me and I'd like to repay that."

DETERMINED: Alex Stavrinou wants to shine for Ebbsfleet United

Charlton sent Stavrinou on loan to Cambridge United last season, before releasing him in May. Daish offered him a trial with the Fleet in pre-season and Stavrinou jumped at his latest non-league opportunity.

"When I came the first time, I really enjoyed my stay," he said. "The fans were unbelievable, they took to me quite well and hopefully I can do a bit this season. I got on well with the manager, I got on well with the fans, and I just felt this was the best club for me."

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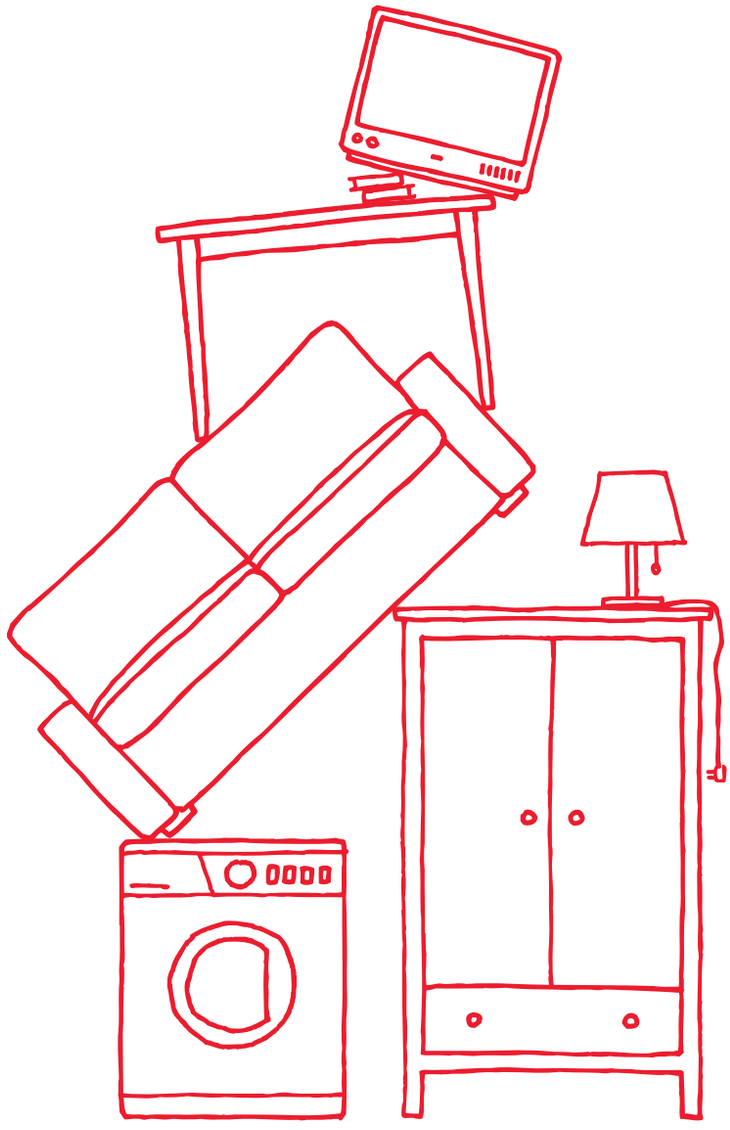

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